

**SB**

**171**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 171</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
171</SUBJECT><COMM>SEDC27</COMM></TARGET>

## SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/20/12

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: \_\_\_\_\_  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 1/30/12

Education Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 171

### SB 171-INCREASE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION

"An Act increasing the base student allocation used for public school funding; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

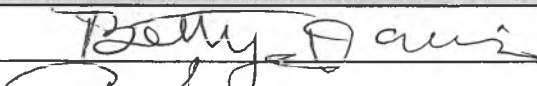



- be replaced with CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  New Title
- adopt previous CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  New Title
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LEG
CED	LAW
COR	LWF
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
EED	✓			
EED	✓			

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	DAVIS	✓			
	STEVE	✗			
CO-CHAIR: 	Thomas	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Meyer	✓			

# ALASKA STATE SENATE

SEN. KEVIN MEYER  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Room 103  
Phone: 907-465-4945  
Fax: 907-465-3476



SEN. JOE THOMAS  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Room 514  
Phone: 907-465-2327  
Fax: 907-465-5241

## SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE Senators Kevin Meyer & Joe Thomas, Co-Chairs

### Senate Bill 171

*The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other public educational institutions.*—Article VIII, Section 1 Alaska Constitution

Every Spring school districts around the state have the unenviable task of developing their budgets—sometimes without complete knowledge of the amount of funding they will receive for the next academic year.

SB 171 gives districts the ability to craft responsible and conservative budgets. It establishes a three-year plan of modest increases—lower than the inflation rate—so districts know the financial parameters they must work within as they plan for sustainability. Forcing districts to rely on unpredictable one year bumps in funding undercuts their ability to do long range, responsible financial and programmatic planning.

This provides districts with a three-year financial plan. Districts will know well in advance how to plan for the education of our children, how to staff the schools, and how to maintain fiscal security over time. Instead of working out whom to layoff each spring, they can budget over a longer period of time, knowing how much money they have to work with.

This additional annual amount added to the BSA allows schools to keep up with the rising cost of educating our children. When a student enters a school, we expect they will receive a quality education. They need an environment conducive to learning—curriculum that meets high standards, a safe, warm building, reliable transportation to and from the facility, and the best teachers possible. Some students have special needs that must be met. If we are going to increase our graduation rates, we must reach out to at risk students.

Failure to increase the Base Student Allocation will lead to lay-offs at school district around the state, program and curriculum reductions, or result in more education costs being borne by local taxpayers.

Because of our unique conditions, delivery of a quality education is more expensive in Alaska than in other states. However, in comparison to other states we are spending less and less to educate our students. In 2009-2010 we ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation in per pupil spending. This additional annual amount added to the BSA allows schools to keep up with the rising cost of educating our children. The incremental increases represent less than two percent a year, which is below the current inflation rate.

Alaska must invest in its resources, and the education of our residents is one of the most important investments we can make.

We urge you to support SB 171, and vote for its passage.

## Report of the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) FY13 Funding Review Committee - October 2011

### Background

At the August meeting of the Alaska Association of School Administrators (AASA), Education Commissioner Mike Hanley asked district superintendents how much funding would be needed in FY13 to maintain current programs.

AASA/ACSA Executive Director Bruce Johnson suggested a joint project with the Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO) to study this question. The ALASBO Executive Board appointed the following ALASBO members to work with Bruce Johnson on this committee: Luke Fulp, Kodiak; Chad Stiteler, Anchorage; David Arp, Sitka; Yodean Armour, Klawock; and Amy Lujan, ALASBO Executive Director.

### Process

With the help of Education and Early Development staff, budget templates pre-loaded with FY12 information were sent out to each school district, with a request for early estimates of FY13 budget needs. A commitment was made to the confidentiality of district data, due to the preliminary nature of the budget estimates. Using the ALASBO network, data was received directly from 48 of the 54 school districts. Estimates were created for the remaining districts.

### Findings

Districts are expecting serious shortfalls in FY13, due to declining federal revenues as well as increased costs.

- health plan costs are expected to increase 7-15%, which is in line with industry estimates
- wage make up 47% of district budgets; many districts have negotiated agreements in place already for FY13; those entering negotiations anticipate modest increases
- energy costs have continued to increase; these higher costs also impact travel and shipping on all goods, from instructional supplies to food for school lunches
- overall expenses are forecast to increase due to inflation, which for the Anchorage CPI has averaged 2.7% since 1990
- the federal program for timber compensation to rural schools and communities (SRSCA) may not be reauthorized; this would reduce funding to schools and municipalities by \$18.5 million, hitting 24 district budgets directly in some cases, and/or the ability of municipalities to provide local funding to school districts
- federal ARRA and Education Jobs Bill funding, which provided \$35 million in unrestricted funding to be spent in FY12 and FY13, will be exhausted by the first quarter of FY13, resulting in program cuts in FY13 and FY14

### State Funding Implications

While it is not expected that state funding can make up for all the reductions in federal funding, it is reasonable to expect that state funding can help districts deal with cost increases and ensure a continued quality educational program. The following estimates of funding needs are provided by this committee for guidance to achieve this goal.

- extending the FY12 grant provided by HB108 (\$20 million) is critical to enabling districts to keep up with energy costs, in addition to the BSA increases suggested below
- a \$320 BSA increase would enable districts to keep pace with expected cost increases, though it is possible that program cuts would be necessary, due to flat or declining local and federal revenues NOT funded by this BSA calculation
  - a \$225 BSA increase would maintain the state's proportionate share of district funding, in relation to local and federal funding; however, program cuts would occur if local and federal revenues are flat or reduced



**FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHAT BUDGET ESTIMATES GIVE RISE TO THE DISTRICT'S SHORTFALL?

Revenue:	
Loss of state one-time energy funding	\$ 2,137,890
Loss of unassigned fund balance <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>229,820</u>
Shortfall due to loss of revenue/financing sources	\$ 2,367,710
Expenditure:	
Increased costs due to adding back in "jobs bill" teachers	\$ 2,155,000
Increased costs for curriculum materials purchase	1,484,370
Increased subsidy to Pupil Transportation	1,246,990
Increased utility costs	335,700
Increased support for special education	2,433,170
Increased employee costs	3,852,150
Increased costs in other areas	<u>722,290</u>
Shortfall due to increased costs	\$ 12,229,670
Estimated 2012-13 budget shortfall as of January	<u>\$ 14,597,380</u>

BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

- Student enrollments increase slightly and our military student population remains steady.
- The local contribution to education is flat funded, unchanged from the current year.
- The district loses \$2.1m in one-time State energy funding provided for in the current year.
- The base student allocation amount (BSA) of \$5,680 remains unchanged from the current year.
- The State continues to provide supplemental funding for retirement system contributions and the employer contribution rates remain unchanged from the current year.
- Pupil Transportation will continue to be funded at rates unchanged from the current year.

<sup>(1)</sup> The district had \$ -0- unassigned audited fund balance at June 30, 2011. The district is estimating that with some additional foundation funding in the current year, along with savings from unfilled reserve teaching positions, that we will have \$1.85m in fund balance available to supplement next year's budget. This can change depending on the high variability of current utility, health care, and other costs.

[print](#)

## **Funding gap halts drop-out program in Fairbanks schools**

by Reba Lean / [rlean@newsminer.com](mailto:rlean@newsminer.com)

01.23.12 - 12:00 am

FAIRBANKS — A program that paired guidance coaches with struggling students decreased high school dropout rates during the past five years, but the local school district ended the effort last year.

Through the now-defunct program, students at risk of dropping out of school met with “graduation success coaches” to get more engaged in school and earn better grades. The program reduced the dropout rate in grades 7 through 12. It also attempted to increase attendance rates in primary schools, but was not able to do so. About 1,500 students went through the program.

Though there are no longer coaches, a model that was created as part of the program will continue to help identify at-risk students. Teachers then can find support for those students, according to district officials.

The program ended when it ran out of grant funding. In its last year, it was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In its early years, local funding covered the cost. The last year, the program’s most expensive, it cost almost \$800,000 to operate, according to district spokesman Bill Bailey.

There were 19 graduation success coaches in the school district, and they were laid off when the program ended in June.

Education Support Staff Association President Chrya Sanderson was a coach with the program. She said she helped students by finding poster board for a science project or a classroom in which to work.

Once students were provided with the resources and her tutoring, they had a better chance at succeeding, she said.

“They want to be in schools because they’re doing better,” she said.

At the Dec. 6 school board meeting, Kathy Hughes and Heather Rauenhorst from the district’s Research and Accountability Department presented a report on the program to the board.

The program began in the district in the 2006-07 school year as the Dropout Prevention Program. Teachers and administrators would refer students to the program to receive help from the coaches.

Ellis Ott, coordinator at the Research and Accountability Department, came up

with a model to identify students who were more likely to drop out. It highlighted students based on attendance rates, grades, out-of-school suspensions and standards-based assessment scores. He was able to group students into high-, medium- and low-risk categories based on the data. Schools were provided with the names of the students and were able to determine who would benefit most from the program.

According to the report, some who were determined as being high-risk students went unserved by the program for several different reasons — they were in alternative schools where there was no coach position, they were new transfer students with little background information, they had scheduling conflicts or their parents refused the services.

Rauenhorst said those who went unserved dropped out at higher rates than those who met with coaches.

Among at-risk seventh to 12th grade students, Graduation Success Program participants had an annual dropout rate of 10.8 percent. A comparison group of unserved, at-risk students had a dropout rate of 21.2 percent.

Since the school year 2004-05, annual overall dropout rates in middle and high schools have decreased from 7.6 percent to 3.9 percent, nearly half.

After the Dec. 6 presentation, school board member Wendy Dominique lamented the loss of the program and its coaches.

“We lost the bulk of the people that got that rate down,” she said.

Kristina Brophy, president of the board, told the News-Miner the administration submitted a draft budget to the board that didn't include the program. She said while the secondary schools' dropout rates were reduced, the attendance rates in primary schools didn't change. After reviewing the draft, Brophy said, the board approved the budget without the program.

Sanderson said program proponents appealed to the board to find funding.

“The school board themselves saw the value of the program, but maybe couldn't see how to fund that,” she said.

Hughes said the district chose not to keep the Graduation Success Program, in part, because at-risk students still have ways to get help. Counselors, Alaska Native Education tutors and other tutors are available for students, she said.

*Contact staff writer Reba Lean at 459-7523.*

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## **Anchorage School District**

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504-3135  
(907) 742-4000

### **SCHOOL BOARD**

Gretchen Guess  
President

Jeannie Mackie  
Vice President

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Treasurer

Jeff Friedman  
Clerk

Pat Higgins

Crystal Kennedy

Don Smith

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Carol Comezu

September 26, 2011

The Honorable Sean Parnell  
Governor  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

On behalf of the 49,000 students, and over 5500 school district employees, I want to thank you for your support and leadership in support of the Alaska Performance Scholarship and the increased funding for Career and Technical Education in the Base Student Allocation. I believe that all students will benefit from the increased focus on more rigorous academics as well as developing college and career readiness skills.

The voters in Anchorage strongly supported increasing Career and Technical Education opportunities at all of our comprehensive high schools, middle schools, and our alternative schools over the next few years. The additional funding in the BSA for our high school students will truly benefit our students; we hope the additional funding will include middle school students in the future as we know that students in sixth grade forward can truly benefit from exploring of various career pathways.

We have a comprehensive plan to expand learning opportunities for our students in various career pathways that are relevant for 21st century career opportunities. We have tremendous partnerships with both the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Department of Education and Early Development as we advance these initiatives. I would be happy to share these increased offerings for our students with you, and/or your staff during this school year when you are in Anchorage. Our administration will be bringing forward a Five Year Comprehensive Career and Technical Education Plan for Anchorage School Board approval in the spring of 2012; our plan will definitely fit under the State's CTE umbrella which has been adopted by the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development.

Our students and staff have been focusing on increasing the high school graduation rates over the past few years; much progress has been made in the Anchorage School District because of our ability to develop new programs and interventions, to monitor progress more frequently, to use online credit recovery and acceleration options, and by expanding our summer school options. Our four year graduation rate for last years' students was over 72%; for our five year seniors, the rate was 75%. We are

very proud of the fact that, regardless of the time needed, more Anchorage School District students are graduating with a high school diploma, not a GED.

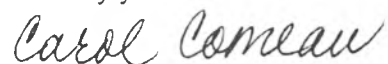
The ability to offer these new programs was as a result of the three-year increases to the Base Student Allocation and the Intensive Needs Funding to the Foundation Formula. Last year, for the first time, the Anchorage School District was able to pay for our Intensive Needs Program with the funding generated from the State and Federal sources, not by diverting funding from our other students programs to pay for mandated services. We are very grateful to the legislature and to you, as governor, for supporting these increases in funding.

Because of our academic progress, I was very disheartened to read in various news reports, that you do not support increasing funding for education in your budget for FY 13 because of the lack of progress by our students. I know that we MUST do better, and we are committed to continuous improvement, but many of our new initiatives that have come about because of increased BSA funding, and the one-time funding for FY12, are in danger of reduction or elimination if we do not receive an increase in the BSA going forward. We have been struggling to plan for continuation of our initiatives, and to maintain some programmatic staff, when our funding is not set until late spring (July 2011 this year). We know that the ability to plan ahead for two and three years assisted all school districts in the past, and I would hope that you could support that kind of progressive funding in your budgetary planning.

In addition, I know that you know, we must support children and families in our various communities. I have been an active participant of the United Way's Anchorage United for Youth Leadership Team since its inception. We have adopted an ambitious aspirational goal of attaining a 90% graduation rate by 2020 for this year's third grade class! We had a wonderful rally last week at the Nicholas Joseph Begich Middle School; many hundreds of community members came to "surround" our middle schoolers with a circle of support so that they know that the whole community is committed to supporting our youth in getting a high quality education and a high school diploma! We know that it truly takes all of us to support our students and families so that our students can focus on learning, and not the many economic and emotional challenges that confront them in their daily lives. We are grateful to you for your leadership in the area of reducing child abuse, domestic violence, and substance abuse, and we know that when these efforts are successful, then our students will have a much better chance in their education. I truly believe that investing in families, early learning, and K-12 education is truly the ticket to Alaska's future success.

I would like the opportunity to meet with you to share with you our academic progress, and how we are using our educational funding currently. We want to continue to progress, but we are fearful that flat funding will erode our efforts in supporting our students and staff and families. I will contact your office to see if we can arrange a meeting when you are in Anchorage.

Sincerely yours,



Carol Comeau  
Superintendent

cc Anchorage School Board members  
Michele Brown, United Way of Anchorage  
Click Bishop, Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development  
Mike Hanley, Commissioner of Education and Early Development  
Karen Rehfeld, State of Alaska, OMB

## Schools seek less funding than this year

**SHORT: Class size, summer school, staff cuts all part of cost reductions.**

By ROSEMARY SHINOHARA

(01/22/12 23:08:26)

Anchorage School District administrators are proposing a 2012-2013 budget today that is \$6.2 million smaller than this year's, and about \$20 million short of continuing the same level of services.

Next year's plan calls for spending \$726.8 million, compared with \$733.1 million this year. If the School Board agrees, class sizes will rise, summer school will disappear, special education staff will be trimmed, and some of the same positions that narrowly escaped being cut last year, such as graduation coaches who intervene on behalf of students at risk of not graduating, will be gone.

While some positions would be added, 88 net positions would be eliminated -- some maintenance workers, a few librarians and some teacher assistants, for example.

"I don't like this budget, but I think it's as responsible as we could make it," school Superintendent Carol Comeau said in an interview.

The district serves roughly 49,000 students.

The School Board begins considering the proposal in a meeting from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at school district headquarters at Northern Lights Boulevard and Boniface Parkway.

The total is based on expected flat funding from the state, which pays about half of local school costs, and a 1 percent increase in local tax revenues. Local taxes pay about a third of school expenses. The rest comes from federal grants and other sources.

While revenues are down, salaries and benefits are up by \$14.6 million.

Other rising costs:

- The district also chose to add \$1.2 million for a program called "Response to Instruction," a system for checking whether students are learning critical skills, and adapting instruction to fill in gaps.
- The district wants to add \$967,987 to an equipment fund to be used for such things as replacing aging school buses.
- The administration wants to absorb the cost of paying for 81 classroom teachers that were funded through a \$7.6 million federal jobs bill that runs out this school year. Other positions would be cut to make up for it.

A big problem, said Comeau and the district's chief financial officer, Chad Stiteler, is that the amount of state money dedicated to schools isn't known until the Legislature adjourns and the governor signs off on state appropriations, in early summer, but long after the district must complete its budget.

As a result, the district this year and last year had to propose heavy-duty cuts. When the state adds money late in the game, drastic cuts are sometimes reversed. The system undermines the district's

credibility, Comeau said.

That happened last year, when the state came up with \$9.7 million that hadn't been expected. In August, the district reinstated some teaching positions, \$2.8 million to replace computers, and other jobs and programs that had been eliminated.

With no increases expected in state funds, the Anchorage district isn't the only one in Alaska facing cuts this year.

Fairbanks superintendent Pete Lewis warned earlier this month that the district there expects a \$14 million shortfall, the Fairbanks News Miner reported. The Fairbanks budget proposal is due out by Feb. 1. The Juneau School District superintendent recently announced that 66 positions could be slashed next school year, according to the Juneau Empire.

The Anchorage district changed its presentation of the budget this year by not including one gigantic expense that had been part of prior budgets: an unfunded liability for the state retirement programs that cover district employees. It amounts to \$100 million-plus. But the state pays it. The school district in the past included the number in its budget total, but now has taken it out to match the way the municipality prepares its budget. The district also removed the liability numbers from past budgets for comparison purposes.

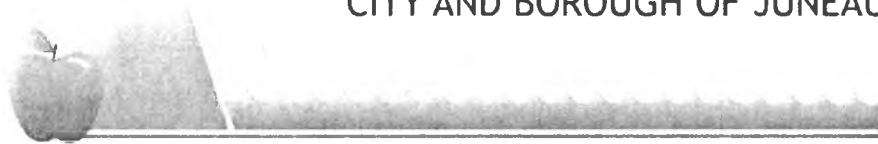
**Here's a list of some of the proposed cuts:**

- .5-student increase in class size for third grade, 1-student increase in grades 4-6, \$1.4 million savings.
- 1-student class size increase for middle-schoolers, \$908,242.
- 1.5 student class size increase for high schools, \$2.3 million.
- Six elementary school counselor positions and four librarian positions, about \$950,000.
- Thirty-five special education positions, including nine secondary counselor positions, \$2.8 million.
- Seven graduation coaches, \$641,912.
- Ten middle school career guides, \$956,044.
- Summer school elimination: elementary schools, \$1.1 million; middle schools, \$459,791; high schools, \$1.2 million.
- Replacement computers, \$2.3 million.
- Six maintenance positions, \$535,457.
- Three warehouse maintenance positions, \$286,421.

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# JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

## CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU



### FY 2013 Juneau School District Budget Information January 17, 2012

#### HOW DID THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GET HERE?

Loss of one-time aid to school districts from the State of Alaska	\$ 737,000
Elimination of federal jobs funding	460,000
Use of fund balance (reserve) last year	1,687,000
Grants expiring	865,000
Increased energy costs	221,000
Less indirect cost recovery from grants	207,000
Increased employee costs	900,000
Instructional and Technology needs	587,000
Other increases	<u>123,445</u>
	\$5,787,445

#### WHAT THE DISTRICT KNOWS:

- The Governor of Alaska has not included any increase in the amount school districts receive as part of the funding formula.
- Utility rates will increase.

#### ASSUMPTIONS USED TO DEVELOP THE FY 2013 BUDGET:

- The Base Student Allocation (BSA) will remain at \$5,680.
- JSD student enrollment will decrease by 26 students to 4,916 next year.
- Juneau students will continue to benefit from the same level of generous support from the City and Borough of Juneau.
- Pupil transportation will continue to be funded at the same level as FY 12 by the State of Alaska.

#### WHAT THE DISTRICT DOESN'T YET KNOW:

- What level of funding the Legislature will approve.
- Outcomes of the collective bargaining process.



## JSD budget could cut more than 66 positions

Board member calls state action "criminal"

Posted: January 18, 2012 12:02am

By Sarah Day

JUNEAU EMPIRE

The Juneau School District got its first look at what \$3.6 million to \$5.9 million in cuts look like, with many cuts hitting administration, classroom sizes and other programming.

Superintendent Glenn Gelbrich introduced the heavy topic Tuesday night at Juneau-Douglas High School for the budget committee meeting. Among the packed room of about 50 people included Assemblywoman Karen Crane and Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner Mike Hanley.

Gelbrich spoke of the success the district has had in increased graduation rates at both comprehensive high schools, increased reading achievement and significantly higher math achievement results.

"Tonight, I bring you a budget that could seriously undermine our progress," Gelbrich said.

The committee asked many questions for clarification, and several chose to also include commentary.

Board member Mark Choate was the first to pipe in his displeasure of the funding situation.

"This feels like we're at a funeral right now," he said. "I have an image of a room filled with food, flowing out the windows and flowing out the doors. Someone outside is saying there's no food, there's nothing to eat but stone soup. This is criminal, this is about as bad as it can be that a state with an \$18 billion excess this year is taking money from children. To take the jobs from this district is simply wrong. I'll do what I can as a community member to say this up on the hill. There's lots of things we can talk about and do to improve. But we should not be sitting here talking about being broke with the resources the state has."

Board member Sally Saddler shared the same sentiment. She said she thought she knew what she was getting into with the estimated deficit, but to see the proposed cuts is sad.

"I feel like I've been sucker punched," Saddler said. "There is a perception out there that there is a lot of waste. As I sat and listened ... it's clear we're cutting to the bone. We need to be rallying. I'm getting over my sad and getting into my mad."

Superintendent Gelbrich also addressed state funding. He said the Alaska Association of School Business Officials have said an increase in the Base Student Allocation would need to be by \$320 per student. Gelbrich said that kind of funding level in Alaska is unprecedented and unlikely to come to fruition. He said the governor's budget proposal maintains flat funding levels for the next three fiscal years for education funding.

"...I want to emphasize that the current level of funding for public education is detrimental to the future of Alaska, to its economic development, to the strength of our communities, and to the future of our students," Gelbrich said. "Unless we are willing to further invest in the greatest resources we have — the capacity of our state's children — we are undermining the potential of Alaska."

Gelbrich talked about estimates gathered by Juneau Economic Development Council Director Brian Holst — who is also on the committee. JEDC estimates that the cutting of those positions will have an economic impact of -\$11.4 million on Juneau.

The operating fund budget revenues for FY12 are \$75.3 million, with \$74.8 million in expenditures. Estimated FY13 revenues are at \$73 million, with \$72.4 million in expenditures including budget reductions.

The FY13 budget proposal includes \$3.3 million in additions to the operating fund budget — but that figure is a bit deceptive. For example, \$1.2 million of those "additions" are positions and programs that already exist in the district, but were not previously part of the operating fund. They are being moved into the central part of the budget because their funding sources were from grants or federal dollars. Another assumption in that \$3.3 million is an estimated \$900,000 increase in salaries and benefits as the district is currently negotiating with its two largest unions. Gelbrich said they can't put the number at zero because the district has to negotiate in good faith, however that doesn't mean the nearly \$900,000 will be that much — or that little.

Aside from those two top dollar budgetary additions, the rest include things like adjusting cost allocation to Juneau Community Charter School, increased costs to try and stabilize Internet services and computers, unemployment compensation, AEL&P rate increase, fuel oil increase, educational leadership center and similar expenditures.

The cut list hits administration pretty hard this year, Gelbrich said — at least compared to percentage of that sector's budget — but students will still be impacted. Approximately 66.3 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) positions are expected to be eliminated given the "worst case" scenario.

Gelbrich said five of 23 jobs at the central office are being eliminated (22 percent).

Cuts by employee group consist of 1 position from the cabinet at 17 percent of the cabinet FTE — \$80,000.

- 3 FTE from the JSAA (Juneau Administrative Association) for 12.7 percent — \$452,000.
- 11 percent from JESS (Juneau Educational Support Staff) for 34.8 FTE — \$2.2 million.
- 26.5 FTE from the Juneau Education Association for 7 percent (teachers) — \$2.6 million.
- 1 FTE from a non-union, non-cabinet position for \$123,000 at 6.25 percent.

On a school level to school level basis, cuts also were broken down.

- \$706,000 at all schools.
- \$1.4 million from elementary schools.
- \$791,000 from middle schools.
- \$1.4 million from high schools.
- \$214,000 from optional programs.
- and \$1.3 million from the district level.

Cuts include reduction for declining enrollment (estimated by 26 students), reducing legal services to \$100,000 max, elimination of a student services coordinator, elimination of one high school assistant principal (leaving one each) but also adding in one teacher for the activities program (still a net loss), six positions between maintenance and custodial staff — merging custodian and maintenance supervisor positions, reducing elementary specialists by .50 FTE at each school, and eliminating a data technician.

They also reduce high school activities fund, cut a finance support staff position, cut high school assistant librarian positions, eliminate secondary instructional coaches, reduce Extended Learning staff by three, reduce site budgets by 5 percent, reduce district supply budgets by 5 percent, reduce HomeBRIDGE supply by \$20,000, reduce special education para educators, increase Pupil-to-Teacher ratio at all schools by one, eliminate truancy officer, eliminate assistant superintendent position (Assistant Superintendent Laury Scandling offered to retire in December. (That position won't be refilled, and her office assistant will be cut thereafter as well. One art specialist will be eliminated. Last year that area was reduced by one as well.

Cuts will also eliminate six of 10 full time school nurses and replace them with health assistants.

Gelbrich and Director of Administrative Services David Means also included "add-backs" in case more revenues come in than projected.

Those add-backs include — in no particular order — cultural para-educators, middle school counselors (1 FTE is proposed to be cut from each), lower PTR by 1, elimination of drug testing contract services at the high school (\$45,000), add 2.0 FTE back from custodial. Total add-backs are about \$1.1 million.

Gelbrich said that with last year's cuts they were lucky because the staff losses were through attrition. He said the number of cuts required this year make that unlikely this year.

- Contact reporter Sarah Day at 523-2279 or at [sarah.day@juneauempire.com](mailto:sarah.day@juneauempire.com).

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## FY2013 Count Impact and Budget Estimates

January 18, 2012

<i>Estimated Number of Students</i>		FY2011-2012 <i>1306</i>	FY2012-2013 <i>1295</i>	Difference <i>-11</i>
<b>Revenues</b>				
A	2013 City/Boro Appropriation	5,026,975	5,026,975	0
B	Misc Local Revenue	30,000	30,000	0
C	E-Rate	130,000	130,000	0
D	Quality Schools	43,883	43,720	-163
E	HB108 Allocation	220,639	0	-220,639
F	Foundation	12,039,137	11,920,556	-118,581
G	Impact Aid	30,000	30,000	0
H	Federal Secure Rural Schools	517,912	0	-517,912
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>18,038,546</b>	<b>17,181,251</b>	<b>-857,295</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
I	Salaries and Benefits	14,617,231	14,941,382	324,151
J	Maintenance	1,583,716	1,664,660	80,944
K	School/Program	649,988	647,595	-2,393
	District Administration	518,181	466,803	-51,378
L	Techology	394,200	427,200	33,000
	Prof/Tech/Contract Services	157,700	138,100	-19,600
	School Board	57,100	47,100	-10,000
M	Student Activities	158,645	111,402	-47,243
	Transfers Out	53,000	28,000	-25,000
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>18,189,761</b>	<b>18,472,242</b>	<b>282,481</b>
	<b>Total Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>-151,215</b>	<b>-1,290,991</b>	

### **Assumptions:**

#### **Revenues:**

- A City and Borough Appropriation remains unchanged from FY2012 to FY2013
- B Misc Local Revenue remains unchanged from FY2012 to FY2013
- C E-Rate reimbursement remains unchanged from FY2012 to FY2013
- D Quality Schools is adjusted to reflect the decrease in enrollment, 34 intensive students, and the final ISER incre
- E State of AK HB108 Allocation is reduced to zero assuming it will not be reauthorized
- F Foundation is adjusted to reflect the decrease in enrollment, 34 intensive students, and the final ISER increase
- G Federal Impact Aid remains unchanged from FY2012 to FY2013
- H Federal Secure Rural Schools funding is reduced to zero assuming it will not be reauthorized

#### **Expenditures:**

- I Salaries and related benefits are adjusted to account for current employees rolled into the FY2013 negotiated agreement scales. Health Insurance premiums remain unchanged from FY2012 to FY2013. Workers Compensation Insurance is increased by 12.5% and all others insurances (non-health) are increased by 2.5% based on estimates from agents
- J Heating fuel costs are increased by \$20,000 as fuel prices are currently forecasted to drop in FY2013. The increase is from the anticipation of using more diesel fuel vs. heating electricity. Electricity is increased by \$15,035 to prepare for anticipated increases from the City Electric Department  
The custodial contract is increased by 5% from FY2012
- K School and Program discretionary budgets remain unchanged from FY2012 to FY2013
- L Technology includes a \$75,000 increase to continue the School Board's 5 year plan
- M Activities budgets are set at the FY2012 budget process level (reduced by \$50,000 from FY2011)

**Note: The \$1.29MM anticipated deficit for FY2013 equates to 14.26 full time certified teaching positons**



## HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 1289

Haines, Alaska 99827

December 13, 2011

Dear Honorable Governor Parnell,

In the FY2013 budget you just released, you call for "full funding" of education at \$1.1 billion and for forward funding for FY2014 at \$1.1 billion. Thank you for acknowledging the need for forward funding. That would be a tremendous assistance.

However, since the recommendation you made for the current fiscal year was also at \$1.1 billion, if I'm not mistaken that would make three years of flat funding within the funding formula. Currently inflation is running around 3% as computed by the Anchorage CPI. For different rural communities that number might be somewhat higher. For Haines, with a budget of around \$5.7 million, 3% would represent about a \$170,000 increase in costs of goods and services. We are currently projecting just about that kind of increase in order to keep the student programs and staff in place for FY2013.

Haines was one of 12 districts in the state to make AYP this year. We were one of three districts where our students with special needs made AYP. We have been working hard to continually improve how we educate our students. We've instituted more vocational education classes, we are stressing more school to work connections, we are instituting more early elementary reading interventions, we are making sure our high school students have access to the classes they need to qualify for the Performance Scholarship (thank you for that) and we are giving more attention to helping our special education students do better. All this has resulted in an over all increase in our graduation rate of over 15% over the last four years. For 2010/11 our graduation rate was 88%.

The Haines Borough School District runs pretty lean. If we experience reductions in the amount of services our funding can cover we will immediately be cutting into the muscle that delivers services to our students. Our programs will immediately suffer and will be driven backwards. We need your support to make sure we will be able to continue the good work we have in place.

Governor, it is respectfully requested you add an amount to the funding formula that will cover the inflationary pressures on the costs of goods and services. Along with forward funding, that would mean volumes in our ability to: 1) retain our staff and not have to keep them on pins and needles about their next year's employment until June; 2) better plan and schedule for the next year; and 3) keep morale up, which helps our entire organization.

Thank you,

Carol Kelly, President  
Haines Borough School Board

**TABLE 7**

**Shares of total per pupil spending for each program**  
*Average of nine districts (includes overhead allocation to each program)*

Program Area*	1967	1991	1996	2001	2005	Change	
						1967-2005	1996-2005
<i>Regular education</i>	79.6%	58.8%	57.4%	56.2%	55.0%	-24.6%	-2.3%
<i>Special education</i>	3.7	17.0	18.3	20.1	21.0	17.3	2.7
<i>Compensatory education</i>	5.4	4.3	3.4	4.3	5.1	-0.2	1.7
<i>Food services</i>	2.0	4.1	4.3	3.9	3.5	1.6	-0.7
<i>Pupil support (attendance and counseling)</i>	2.0	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.3	1.3	0.1
<i>Transportation (regular ed)</i>	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.8	-1.1	-0.6
<i>Vocational education</i>	1.4	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.5	1.0	-0.7
<i>Education of English-language-learners</i>	0.3	1.8	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.8	-0.3
<i>Regular health &amp; psychological services</i>	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.1	-0.2	-0.2
<i>Desegregation</i>	0.0	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	-0.4
<i>After school athletics</i>	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.3
<i>"At risk" youth education, alternative education</i>	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.4
<i>Security and violence prevention</i>	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		
<i>Regular, compensatory ed., At risk, bilingual ed., And desegregation combined</i>	85.4%	67.1%	65.3%	64.4%	64.2%	-21.2%	-1.0%
<i>Compensatory ed., At risk, bilingual ed., And desegregation combined</i>	5.7%	8.3%	7.9%	8.3%	9.2%	3.4%	1.3%

\* Programs listed in order of 2005 share of total per pupil spending.

**H-9. CURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS PER STUDENT IN FALL ENROLLMENT, 2007-08 (REVISED) (\$)**

1.	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	17,109
2.	RHODE ISLAND	15,914
3.	NEW JERSEY	15,542
4.	NEW YORK	15,286
5.	WYOMING	13,999
6.	VERMONT	13,915
7.	MASSACHUSETTS	13,706
8.	CONNECTICUT	13,533
9.	MAINE	12,665
10.	DELAWARE	12,521
11.	HAWAII	11,800
12.	NEW HAMPSHIRE	11,672
13.	PENNSYLVANIA	11,659
14.	MARYLAND	11,278
15.	ILLINOIS	10,947
16.	MICHIGAN	10,815
17.	ALASKA	10,705
18.	WISCONSIN	10,672 *
19.	MINNESOTA	10,560
20.	VIRGINIA	10,512
21.	WEST VIRGINIA	10,411
22.	LOUISIANA	10,017
	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>9,934 *</b>
23.	OREGON	9,705
24.	NEW MEXICO	9,619
25.	ARKANSAS	9,591
26.	GEORGIA	9,564
27.	KANSAS	9,560
28.	INDIANA	9,432
29.	COLORADO	9,335
30.	WASHINGTON	9,304
31.	KENTUCKY	9,288
32.	ALABAMA	9,194
33.	SOUTH CAROLINA	9,182
34.	FLORIDA	9,077
35.	MONTANA	9,001
36.	IOWA	8,922
37.	OHIO	8,829
38.	NORTH DAKOTA	8,752
39.	NEBRASKA	8,726
40.	NORTH CAROLINA	8,609
41.	CALIFORNIA	8,586
42.	SOUTH DAKOTA	8,481
43.	MISSOURI	8,466
44.	TEXAS	8,420
45.	TENNESSEE	8,022
46.	OKLAHOMA	7,755
47.	IDAHO	7,535
48.	NEVADA	7,292
49.	MISSISSIPPI	7,175
50.	UTAH	5,734
51.	ARIZONA	5,685
	MEDIAN	9,564
	RANGE	11,424
	SDEV.	2,508
	CV	24

Computed from NEA Research Estimates Database (2009) K-12 -  
\*Elementary and Secondary\* (see Glossary)

**H-10. CURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS PER STUDENT IN FALL ENROLLMENT, 2008-09 (\$)**

1.	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	17,638 *
2.	RHODE ISLAND	17,289 *
3.	NEW JERSEY	16,253 *
4.	NEW YORK	15,997 *
5.	WYOMING	14,732
6.	VERMONT	14,679 *
7.	MASSACHUSETTS	13,901
8.	CONNECTICUT	13,864
9.	MAINE	13,309 *
10.	DELAWARE	13,039 *
11.	HAWAII	12,520
12.	NEW HAMPSHIRE	12,344 *
13.	PENNSYLVANIA	12,032 *
14.	MARYLAND	11,743
15.	MICHIGAN	11,197 *
16.	VIRGINIA	11,114 *
17.	WISCONSIN	11,021 *
18.	MINNESOTA	10,996 *
19.	ALASKA	10,904 *
20.	WEST VIRGINIA	10,747 *
21.	ILLINOIS	10,714
22.	ARKANSAS	10,345 *
	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>10,190 *</b>
23.	LOUISIANA	10,160
24.	OREGON	10,129
25.	NEW MEXICO	10,099 *
26.	KANSAS	9,979
27.	GEORGIA	9,952 *
28.	INDIANA	9,780
29.	WASHINGTON	9,633 *
30.	COLORADO	9,574 *
31.	SOUTH DAKOTA	9,466
32.	OHIO	9,358
33.	MONTANA	9,339 *
34.	SOUTH CAROLINA	9,286
35.	KENTUCKY	9,259
36.	NEBRASKA	9,250
37.	IOWA	9,203
38.	TEXAS	9,036
39.	ALABAMA	8,911
40.	MISSOURI	8,862 *
41.	FLORIDA	8,761
42.	NORTH CAROLINA	8,743
43.	CALIFORNIA	8,322
44.	TENNESSEE	8,261 *
45.	NORTH DAKOTA	8,222
46.	OKLAHOMA	8,006 *
47.	IDAHO	7,730 *
48.	NEVADA	7,615 *
49.	MISSISSIPPI	7,484 *
50.	ARIZONA	5,932 *
51.	UTAH	5,912 *
	MEDIAN	9,979
	RANGE	11,726
	SDEV.	2,682
	CV	25

Computed from NEA Research Estimates Database (2009) K-12 -  
\*Elementary and Secondary\* (see Glossary)

**H-11. CURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS PER STUDENT IN FALL ENROLLMENT, 2009-10 (\$)**

1.	NEW JERSEY	16,967 *
2.	NEW YORK	16,922 *
3.	VERMONT	16,308 *
4.	RHODE ISLAND	15,384 *
5.	WYOMING	15,345
6.	MASSACHUSETTS	14,766
7.	CONNECTICUT	14,472 *
8.	MAINE	14,247 *
9.	MARYLAND	14,244 *
10.	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	13,519 *
11.	DELAWARE	13,496 *
12.	NEW HAMPSHIRE	12,979 *
13.	PENNSYLVANIA	12,728 *
14.	MICHIGAN	11,595 *
15.	HAWAII	11,521
16.	ILLINOIS	11,457 *
17.	MINNESOTA	11,447 *
18.	WISCONSIN	11,429 *
19.	VIRGINIA	11,290 *
20.	ARKANSAS	11,171 *
21.	WEST VIRGINIA	11,043 *
22.	ALASKA	11,000 *
23.	NEW MEXICO	10,812 *
24.	LOUISIANA	10,750
25.	GEORGIA	10,594 *
	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>10,586 *</b>
26.	OREGON	10,476
27.	INDIANA	10,120
28.	WASHINGTON	9,900
29.	NEBRASKA	9,760
30.	COLORADO	9,631
31.	MONTANA	9,613 *
32.	KENTUCKY	9,603
33.	SOUTH CAROLINA	9,531
34.	OHIO	9,528 *
35.	IOWA	9,455
36.	KANSAS	9,264
37.	TEXAS	9,227
38.	MISSOURI	9,076 *
39.	SOUTH DAKOTA	9,021 *
40.	ALABAMA	9,001
41.	FLORIDA	8,963
42.	CALIFORNIA	8,846 *
43.	NORTH DAKOTA	8,541
44.	NORTH CAROLINA	8,529
45.	TENNESSEE	8,199 *
46.	OKLAHOMA	7,968 *
47.	IDAHO	7,875 *
48.	NEVADA	7,813 *
49.	MISSISSIPPI	7,752 *
50.	UTAH	6,859 *
51.	ARIZONA	6,170 *
	MEDIAN	10,476
	RANGE	10,797
	SDEV.	2,638
	CV	24

Computed from NEA Research Estimates Database (2010) K-12 -  
\*Elementary and Secondary\* (see Glossary)

**H-10. CURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS PER STUDENT IN FALL ENR AS % OF NAT. AVG., 2003-04 (REV.)**

1.	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	159.7
2.	NEW JERSEY	158.4
3.	NEW YORK	147.8 *
4.	CONNECTICUT	141.2
5.	MASSACHUSETTS	132.4
6.	VERMONT	128.7
7.	DELAWARE	126.7
8.	RHODE ISLAND	123.0 *
9.	MAINE	120.5
10.	ALASKA	117.6 *
11.	PENNSYLVANIA	116.3
12.	WYOMING	116.0
13.	MICHIGAN	112.1 *
14.	WISCONSIN	111.0
15.	ILLINOIS	110.2
16.	NEW HAMPSHIRE	108.5
17.	OHIO	108.3
18.	WEST VIRGINIA	108.1
19.	MARYLAND	106.4
20.	MINNESOTA	106.3
21.	HAWAII	102.3
22.	INDIANA	101.2
	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>100.0 *</b>
23.	COLORADO	99.1
24.	VIRGINIA	98.1
25.	GEORGIA	97.2
26.	NEW MEXICO	94.6
27.	CALIFORNIA	92.9
28.	OREGON	92.3
29.	MONTANA	92.2 *
30.	KENTUCKY	89.9
31.	WASHINGTON	88.2
32.	NEBRASKA	87.8
33.	KANSAS	87.7
34.	IOWA	87.3
35.	LOUISIANA	87.1
36.	TEXAS	86.5
37.	SOUTH DAKOTA	85.5
38.	MISSOURI	85.0
39.	NORTH CAROLINA	84.6
40.	SOUTH CAROLINA	84.4
41.	NORTH DAKOTA	82.8
42.	FLORIDA	80.4
43.	ALABAMA	80.1
44.	TENNESSEE	77.9
45.	NEVADA	76.8
46.	IDAHO	76.4 *
47.	MISSISSIPPI	73.6 *
48.	ARKANSAS	72.0 *
49.	OKLAHOMA	71.7
50.	ARIZONA	64.1 *
51.	UTAH	61.0
	MEDIAN	94.6
	RANGE	98.6
	SDEV.	22.8
	CV	22.8

Computed from NEA Research, Estimates Database (2006). K-12 = "Elementary and Secondary" (see Glossary).

**H-11. CURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS PER STUDENT IN FALL ENROLLMENT, 2004-05 (\$)**

1.	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	15,073 *
2.	NEW JERSEY	13,370
3.	NEW YORK	12,879 *
4.	CONNECTICUT	11,874
5.	MASSACHUSETTS	11,681
6.	VERMONT	11,667
7.	DELAWARE	11,016 *
8.	MAINE	10,723
9.	RHODE ISLAND	10,641 *
10.	WYOMING	10,372
11.	ALASKA	10,042 *
12.	WISCONSIN	9,805 *
13.	MICHIGAN	9,784 *
14.	PENNSYLVANIA	9,570 *
15.	OHIO	9,557 *
16.	NEW HAMPSHIRE	9,555
17.	WEST VIRGINIA	9,461
18.	ILLINOIS	9,327
19.	MARYLAND	9,281 *
20.	MINNESOTA	9,249
21.	GEORGIA	8,882
22.	VIRGINIA	8,729
23.	INDIANA	8,723 *
	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>8,661 *</b>
24.	HAWAII	8,639
25.	COLORADO	8,337
26.	NEW MEXICO	8,178
27.	SOUTH CAROLINA	8,035
28.	MONTANA	8,025 *
29.	CALIFORNIA	7,942
30.	KENTUCKY	7,906
31.	OREGON	7,842
32.	KANSAS	7,693
33.	WASHINGTON	7,683
34.	LOUISIANA	7,656
35.	IOWA	7,610
36.	NEBRASKA	7,586
37.	SOUTH DAKOTA	7,536
38.	MISSOURI	7,398
39.	NORTH CAROLINA	7,392
40.	NORTH DAKOTA	7,377
41.	TEXAS	7,310
42.	FLORIDA	7,181
43.	ALABAMA	7,028
44.	TENNESSEE	6,855
45.	IDAHO	6,743 *
46.	NEVADA	6,709
47.	OKLAHOMA	6,614
48.	MISSISSIPPI	6,452 *
49.	ARKANSAS	6,202 *
50.	ARIZONA	5,474 *
51.	UTAH	5,032
	MEDIAN	8,178
	RANGE	10,042
	SDEV.	2,024
	CV	23

Computed from NEA Research, Estimates Database (2006). K-12 = "Elementary and Secondary" (see Glossary).

**H-12. CURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS PER STUDENT IN FALL ENR AS % OF NATIONAL AVG., 2004-05**

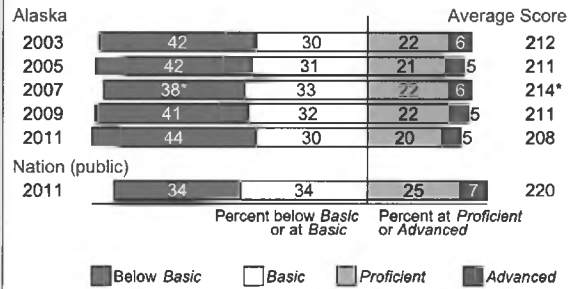
1.	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	174.0 *
2.	NEW JERSEY	154.4
3.	NEW YORK	148.7 *
4.	CONNECTICUT	137.1
5.	MASSACHUSETTS	134.9
6.	VERMONT	134.7
7.	DELAWARE	127.2 *
8.	MAINE	123.8
9.	RHODE ISLAND	122.9 *
10.	WYOMING	119.8
11.	ALASKA	115.9 *
12.	WISCONSIN	113.2 *
13.	MICHIGAN	113.0 *
14.	PENNSYLVANIA	110.5 *
15.	NEW HAMPSHIRE	110.3
	OHIO	110.3 *
17.	WEST VIRGINIA	109.2
18.	ILLINOIS	107.7
19.	MARYLAND	107.2 *
20.	MINNESOTA	106.8
21.	GEORGIA	102.5
22.	VIRGINIA	100.8
23.	INDIANA	100.7 *
	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>100.0 *</b>
24.	HAWAII	99.7
25.	COLORADO	96.3
26.	NEW MEXICO	94.4
27.	SOUTH CAROLINA	92.8
28.	MONTANA	92.7 *
29.	CALIFORNIA	91.7
30.	KENTUCKY	91.3
31.	OREGON	90.5
32.	KANSAS	88.8
33.	WASHINGTON	88.7
34.	LOUISIANA	88.4
35.	IOWA	87.9
36.	NEBRASKA	87.6
37.	SOUTH DAKOTA	87.0
38.	MISSOURI	85.4
39.	NORTH CAROLINA	85.3
40.	NORTH DAKOTA	85.2
41.	TEXAS	84.4
42.	FLORIDA	82.9
43.	ALABAMA	81.1
44.	TENNESSEE	79.1
45.	IDAHO	77.9 *
46.	NEVADA	77.5
47.	OKLAHOMA	76.4
48.	MISSISSIPPI	74.5 *
49.	ARKANSAS	71.6 *
50.	ARIZONA	63.2 *
51.	UTAH	58.1
	MEDIAN	94.4
	RANGE	115.9
	SDEV.	23.4
	CV	23.2

Computed from NEA Research, Estimates Database (2006). K-12 = "Elementary and Secondary."

Overall Results

- In 2011, the average score of fourth-grade students in Alaska was 208. This was lower than the average score of 220 for public school students in the nation.
- The average score for students in Alaska in 2011 (208) was not significantly different from their average score in 2009 (211) and was not significantly different from their average score in 2003 (212).
- In 2011, the score gap between students in Alaska at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 55 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 2003 (55 points).
- The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 26 percent in 2011. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2009 (27 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 2003 (28 percent).
- The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 56 percent in 2011. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2009 (59 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 2003 (58 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from state's results in 2011. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Compare the Average Score in 2011 to Other States/Jurisdictions

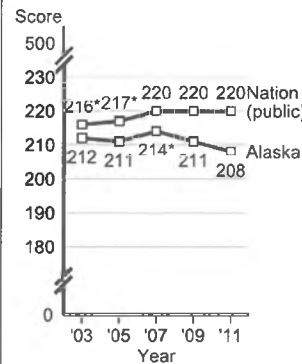


<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools).

In 2011, the average score in Alaska (208) was

- lower than those in 46 states/jurisdictions
- higher than that in 1 state/jurisdiction
- not significantly different from those in 4 states/jurisdictions

Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation (public)



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2011. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

Results for Student Groups in 2011

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Avg. score	Percentages at or above		Percent at Advanced
			Basic	Proficient	
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
White	50	223	71	36	8
Black	4	206	50	20	3
Hispanic	6	212	60	24	5
Asian	6	199	45	14	1
American Indian/Alaska Native	23	175	26	8	1
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	192	36	12	2
Two or more races	8	216	62	27	4
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	51	204	52	23	4
Female	49	212	60	28	6
<b>National School Lunch Program</b>					
Eligible	46	191	39	13	1
Not eligible	53	223	71	37	8

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, is not displayed. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin.

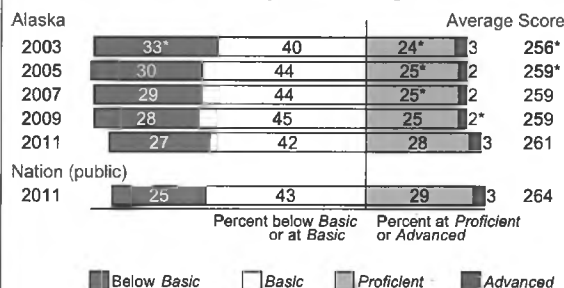
Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2011, Black students had an average score that was 17 points lower than White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2003 (17 points).
- In 2011, Hispanic students had an average score that was 12 points lower than White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2003 (17 points).
- In 2011, female students in Alaska had an average score that was higher than male students by 8 points.
- In 2011, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 32 points lower than students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2003 (32 points).

Overall Results

- In 2011, the average score of eighth-grade students in Alaska was 261. This was lower than the average score of 264 for public school students in the nation.
- The average score for students in Alaska in 2011 (261) was not significantly different from their average score in 2009 (259) and was higher than their average score in 2003 (256).
- In 2011, the score gap between students in Alaska at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 46 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 2003 (50 points).
- The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 31 percent in 2011. This percentage was greater than that in 2009 (27 percent) and was greater than that in 2003 (27 percent).
- The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 73 percent in 2011. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2009 (72 percent) and was greater than that in 2003 (67 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from state's results in 2011. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Compare the Average Score in 2011 to Other States/Jurisdictions

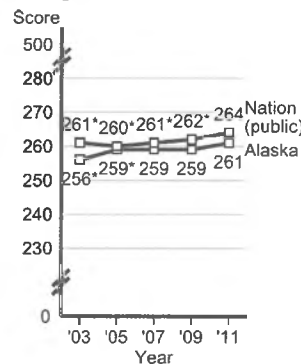


\* Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools).

In 2011, the average score in **Alaska** (261) was

- lower than those in 33 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 8 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 10 states/jurisdictions

Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation (public)



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2011. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

Results for Student Groups in 2011

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Avg. score	Percentages at or above		Percent at Advanced
			Basic	Proficient	
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
White	52	274	85	42	4
Black	4	252	66	17	1
Hispanic	6	260	74	24	1
Asian	7	263	73	31	4
American Indian/Alaska Native	22	234	44	10	1
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races	7	264	76	30	2
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	51	256	68	24	1
Female	49	267	78	38	4
<b>National School Lunch Program</b>					
Eligible	41	245	56	16	1
Not eligible	58	273	85	41	4

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, is not displayed. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin.

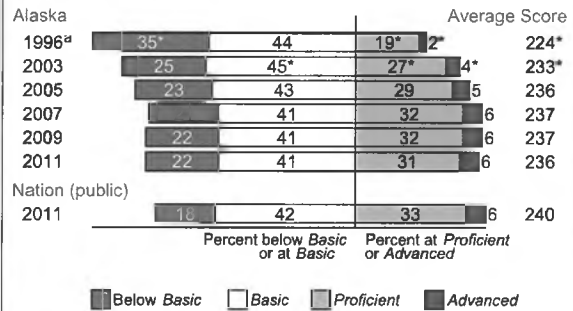
Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2011, Black students had an average score that was 22 points lower than White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2003 (19 points).
- In 2011, Hispanic students had an average score that was 13 points lower than White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2003 (21 points).
- In 2011, female students in Alaska had an average score that was higher than male students by 11 points.
- In 2011, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 28 points lower than students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2003 (24 points).

Overall Results

- In 2011, the average score of fourth-grade students in Alaska was 236. This was lower than the average score of 240 for public school students in the nation.
- The average score for students in Alaska in 2011 (236) was not significantly different from their average score in 2009 (237) and was higher than their average score in 1996 (224).
- In 2011, the score gap between students in Alaska at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 41 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1996 (40 points).
- The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 37 percent in 2011. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2009 (38 percent) and was greater than that in 1996 (21 percent).
- The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 78 percent in 2011. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2009 (78 percent) and was greater than that in 1996 (65 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from state's results in 2011. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.  
 † Accommodations not permitted. For information about NAEP accommodations, see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp>.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Compare the Average Score in 2011 to Other States/Jurisdictions

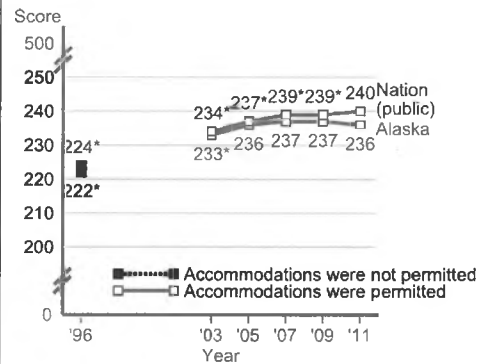


† Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools).

In 2011, the average score in **Alaska** (236) was

- lower than those in 33 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 6 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 12 states/jurisdictions

Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation (public)



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2011. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

NOTE: For information about NAEP accommodations, see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp>.

Results for Student Groups in 2011

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Avg. score	Percentages at or above		
			Basic	Proficient	Advanced
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
White	50	248	90	50	9
Black	4	225	68	15	2
Hispanic	6	239	82	36	5
Asian	6	238	84	34	3
American Indian/Alaska Native	23	213	50	14	1
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races	8	240	83	38	7
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	52	237	78	38	6
Female	48	235	78	35	5
<b>National School Lunch Program</b>					
Eligible	46	224	65	22	2
Not eligible	53	247	89	49	9

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, is not displayed. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin.

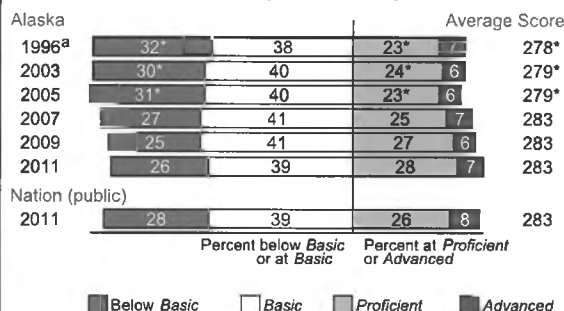
Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2011, Black students had an average score that was 23 points lower than White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 1996 (25 points).
- In 2011, Hispanic students had an average score that was 9 points lower than White students. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 1996, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2011, male students in Alaska had an average score that was not significantly different from female students.
- In 2011, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 23 points lower than students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 1996 (25 points).

Overall Results

- In 2011, the average score of eighth-grade students in Alaska was 283. This was not significantly different from the average score of 283 for public school students in the nation.
- The average score for students in Alaska in 2011 (283) was not significantly different from their average score in 2009 (283) and was higher than their average score in 1996 (278).
- In 2011, the score gap between students in Alaska at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 47 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1996 (51 points).
- The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 35 percent in 2011. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2009 (33 percent) and was greater than that in 1996 (30 percent).
- The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 74 percent in 2011. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2009 (75 percent) and was greater than that in 1996 (68 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from state's results in 2011. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

<sup>a</sup> Accommodations not permitted. For information about NAEP accommodations, see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp>.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Compare the Average Score in 2011 to Other States/Jurisdictions

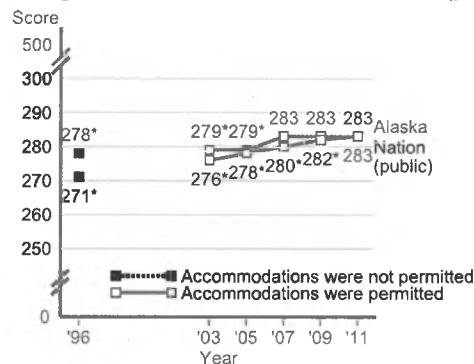


\* Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools).

In 2011, the average score in **Alaska** (283) was

- lower than those in 22 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 16 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 13 states/jurisdictions

Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation (public)



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2011. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

NOTE: For information about NAEP accommodations, see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp>.

Results for Student Groups in 2011

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Avg. score	Percentages at or above		Percent at Advanced
			Basic	Proficient	
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
White	52	296	88	47	10
Black	4	273	66	17	1
Hispanic	6	277	67	25	5
Asian	8	287	77	38	10
American Indian/Alaska Native	22	258	48	15	3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races	7	281	72	32	7
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	51	283	74	36	7
Female	49	284	75	35	7
<b>National School Lunch Program</b>					
Eligible	41	269	60	21	3
Not eligible	58	294	85	45	11

‡ Reporting standards not met.

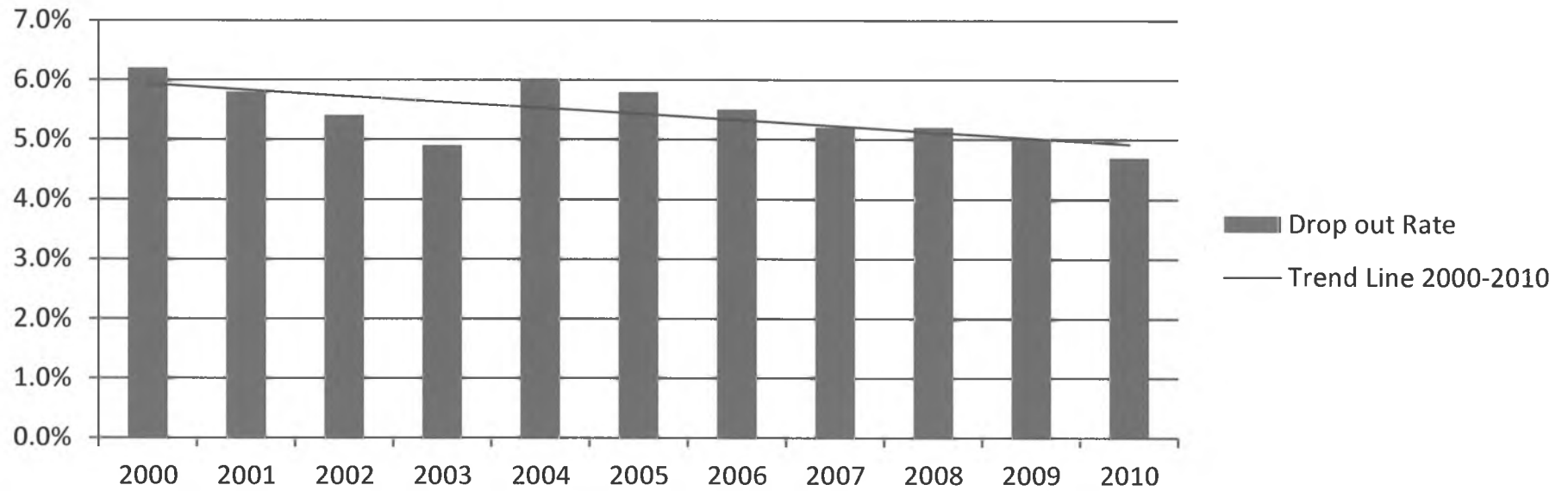
NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, is not displayed. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin.

Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2011, Black students had an average score that was 23 points lower than White students. Data are not reported for Black students in 1996, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2011, Hispanic students had an average score that was 19 points lower than White students. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 1996, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2011, female students in Alaska had an average score that was not significantly different from male students.
- In 2011, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 26 points lower than students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 1996 (26 points).

NOTE: Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), various years, 1996–2011 Mathematics Assessments.

## Drop out Rate



**More Education, Less Crime:**  
*Research Evidence and Policy Implications*

**Alaska State Legislature  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Crime Summit  
January 24, 2012**

**Annie Pennucci**  
Senior Research Associate  
Washington State Institute for Public Policy  
pennuccia@wsipp.wa.gov  
www.wsipp.wa.gov

## ***Washington State Institute for Public Policy***

- **Non-partisan, created by 1983 Legislature**
- **General purpose legislative research unit**
- **Projects assigned by legislative bills**
- **Legislative & executive Board**
  - **Equal party representation**
  - **Includes representatives from state universities**



## ***Washington State Institute for Public Policy***

### **Recent study direction from the WA Legislature**

- **What works?**
  - **What are the costs & benefits of policies to improve these outcomes?**
- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ <b><i>Crime</i></b>                      | ✓ <b><i>Teen Births</i></b>       |
| ✓ <b><i>Education, Early Ed.</i></b>       | ✓ <b><i>Employment</i></b>        |
| ✓ <b><i>Child Abuse &amp; Neglect</i></b>  | ✓ <b><i>Public Assistance</i></b> |
| ✓ <b><i>Substance Abuse</i></b>            | ✓ <b><i>Public Health</i></b>     |
| ✓ <b><i>Mental Health</i></b>              | ✓ <b><i>Housing</i></b>           |
| ✓ <b><i>Developmental Disabilities</i></b> |                                   |

# Reporting to the Legislature

## A "Consumer Reports" List:

What works?

What doesn't?

What can give Washington taxpayers a good return on their money?

Given the current level of rigorous research, what don't we know?

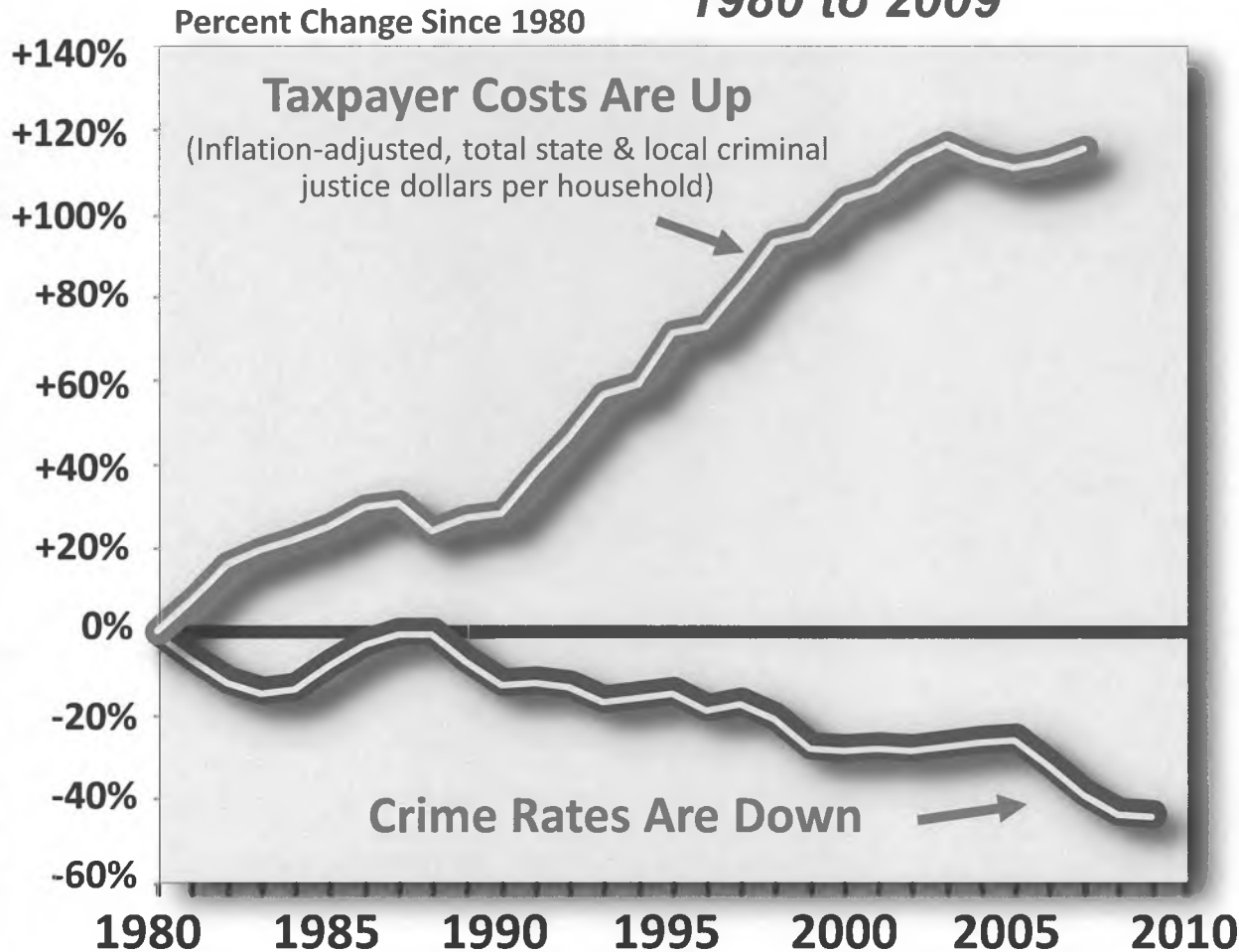
**Exhibit 4**  
**Reducing Crime With Evidence-Based Options: What Works, and Benefits & Costs**

Washington State Institute for Public Policy  
Estimates as of October, 2006

Notes: "N/A" means not estimated at this time. Prevention program costs are partial program costs, prorated to match crime outcomes.	Effect on Crime Outcomes		Benefits and Costs			
	Percent change in crime outcomes. A negative number indicates a reduction in crime. The estimate is based on parentheses. (1)	(2)	Benefits to Crime Victims (3)	Benefits to Taxpayers (4)	Costs (5)	Benefits (total) Minus Costs (6)
<b>Programs for People in the Adult Offender System</b>						
Vocational education in prison	-8.0% (4)	\$8,114	\$6,806	\$1,182	\$13,738	\$11,556
Intensive supervision: treatment-oriented programs	-18.7% (11)	\$9,318	\$9,309	\$1,124	\$16,669	\$16,299
General education in prison (basic education or post-secondary)	-7.0% (17)	\$6,325	\$5,306	\$962	\$10,669	\$10,299
Cognitive-behavioral therapy in prison or community	-6.3% (25)	\$5,658	\$4,746	\$105	\$10,669	\$10,564
Drug treatment in community	-2.3% (6)	\$5,133	\$5,496	\$417	\$9,439	\$9,439
Correctional industries in prison	-5.9% (4)	\$5,380	\$4,496	\$105	\$7,235	\$7,235
Drug treatment in prison (therapeutic communities or outpatient)	-5.7% (20)	\$5,133	\$4,705	\$4,333	\$4,767	\$4,767
Adult drug courts	-8.0% (57)	\$4,395	\$2,396	\$400	\$4,359	\$4,359
Employment and job training in the community	-4.3% (16)	\$2,373	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Electronic monitoring to offset jail time	0% (9)	\$0	\$0	-\$570	\$0	\$0
Sex offender treatment in prison with aftercare	-7.0% (6)	\$6,442	\$2,885	\$12,585	-\$3,258	-\$3,258
Intensive supervision: surveillance-oriented programs	0% (23)	\$0	\$0	\$3,747	-\$3,747	-\$3,747
Washington's Dangerousness Mentally II Offender program	-20.0% (1)	\$18,000	\$15,115	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drug treatment in jail	-4.5% (9)	\$2,481	\$2,656	n/a	n/a	n/a
Adult boot camps	0% (22)	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Domestic violence education/cognitive-behavioral treatment	0% (9)	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jail diversion for mentally II offenders	0% (11)	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Life Skills education programs for adults	0% (4)	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Programs for Youth in the Juvenile Offender System</b>						
Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (v. regular group care)	-22.0% (3)	\$51,828	\$32,915	\$6,945	\$77,798	\$40,853
Adolescent Diversion Program (for lower risk offenders)	-18.8% (6)	\$18,228	\$18,208	\$1,913	\$40,545	\$40,545
Family Integrated Transitions	-13.0% (1)	\$30,708	\$19,502	\$9,665	\$31,821	\$31,821
Functional Family Therapy on probation	-15.9% (7)	\$19,529	\$14,817	\$2,325	\$18,213	\$18,213
Multisystemic Therapy	-10.5% (10)	\$12,855	\$9,622	\$4,294	\$14,660	\$14,660
Aggression Replacement Training	-7.3% (4)	\$8,897	\$6,659	\$897	\$8,208	\$8,208
Teen courts	-11.1% (5)	\$5,907	\$4,238	\$936	\$8,208	\$8,208
Juvenile boot camp to offset institution time	0% (14)	\$0	\$0	-\$8,077	\$0	\$0
Sex offender cognitive-behavioral treatment	-10.2% (5)	\$32,515	\$8,377	\$33,064	\$7,829	\$7,829
Restorative justice for lower risk offenders	-8.7% (21)	\$4,628	\$3,320	\$880	\$7,067	\$7,067
Interagency coordination programs	-2.5% (15)	\$3,084	\$2,308	\$205	\$5,186	\$5,186
Juvenile drug courts	-3.5% (15)	\$4,232	\$3,167	\$2,777	\$4,822	\$4,822
Regular surveillance-oriented parole (v. no parole supervision)	0% (2)	\$0	\$0	\$3,201	-\$3,201	-\$3,201
Juvenile intensive probation supervision programs	0% (3)	\$0	\$0	\$1,588	-\$1,588	-\$1,588
Juvenile wilderness challenge	0% (9)	\$0	\$0	\$3,085	-\$3,085	-\$3,085
Juvenile intensive parole supervision	0% (10)	\$0	\$0	\$6,460	-\$6,460	-\$6,460
Scared Straight	+6.8% (10)	-\$8,355	-\$6,253	\$58	-\$14,667	-\$14,667
Counseling/psychotherapy for juvenile offenders	-18.9% (6)	\$23,126	\$17,309	n/a	n/a	n/a
Juvenile education programs	-17.5% (3)	\$41,181	\$26,153	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other family-based therapy programs	-12.2% (12)	\$15,006	\$11,231	n/a	n/a	n/a
Team Child	-10.9% (2)	\$5,759	\$4,131	n/a	n/a	n/a
Juvenile behavior modification	-8.2% (4)	\$19,271	\$12,238	n/a	n/a	n/a
Life skills education programs for juvenile offenders	-2.7% (3)	\$6,441	\$4,091	n/a	n/a	n/a
Diversion prog. with services (v. regular juvenile court)	-2.7% (20)	\$1,441	\$1,034	n/a	n/a	n/a
Juvenile cognitive-behavioral treatment	-2.5% (8)	\$3,123	\$2,337	n/a	n/a	n/a
Court supervision vs. simple release without services	0% (9)	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Diversion programs with services (v. simple release)	0% (7)	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Juvenile intensive probation (as alternative to incarceration)	0% (5)	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Guided Group Interaction	0% (4)	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Prevention Programs (crime reduction effects only)</b>						
Nurse Family Partnership-Mothers	-56.2% (1)	\$11,531	\$8,161	\$5,409	\$14,283	\$14,283
Nurse Family Partnership-Children	-46.4% (1)	\$8,532	\$4,522	\$733	\$12,822	\$12,822
Pre-K education for low income 3 & 4 year olds	-34.2% (8)	\$8,145	\$4,644	\$593	\$12,196	\$12,196
Seattle Social Development Project	-46.6% (1)	\$1,805	\$4,341	n/a	n/a	n/a
High school graduation	-40.4% (1)	\$1,738	\$2,851	n/a	n/a	n/a
Guiding Good Choices	-9.1% (1)	\$570	\$2,052	n/a	n/a	n/a
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy	-3.7% (1)	\$268	\$784	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Program types in need of additional research &amp; development before we can conclude they do or do not reduce crime outcomes.</b>						
<b>Programs needing more research for people in the adult offender system</b>						
Case management in the community for drug offenders	0% (13)					Comment: Findings are mixed for this broad grouping of programs.
COSA (Faith-based supervision of sex offenders)	-22.3% (1)					Too few evaluations to date.
Day fines (compared to standard probation)	0% (1)					Too few evaluations to date.
Domestic violence courts	0% (2)					Too few evaluations to date.
Faith-based programs	0% (5)					Too few evaluations to date.
Intensive supervision of sex offenders in the community	0% (4)					Findings are mixed for this broad grouping of programs.
Medical treatment of sex offenders	-21.4% (1)					Too few evaluations to date.
Mixed treatment of sex offenders in the community	0% (2)					Too few evaluations to date.
Regular parole supervision vs. no parole supervision	0% (1)					Too few evaluations to date.
Restorative justice programs for lower risk adult offenders	0% (8)					Findings are mixed for this broad grouping of programs.
Therapeutic community programs for mentally II offenders	-20.8% (2)					Too few evaluations to date.
Work release programs (from prison)	-4.3% (4)					Too few recent evaluations.
<b>Programs needing more research for youth in the juvenile offender system</b>						
Delinquent Behavior Therapy	0% (1)					Too few evaluations to date.
Increased drug testing (on parole) vs. minimal drug testing	0% (1)					Too few evaluations to date.
Juvenile curfews	0% (1)					Too few evaluations to date.
Juvenile day reporting	0% (2)					Too few evaluations to date.
Juvenile jobs programs	0% (3)					Too few recent evaluations.
Juvenile therapeutic communities	0% (1)					Too few evaluations to date.
Mentoring in juvenile justice	0% (1)					Too few evaluations to date.

## Crime: The Big Picture

### Keeping Track of Crime Rates & Taxpayer Costs in Washington: 1980 to 2009



In 1980, taxpayers spent \$575 per household on the criminal justice system in WA.

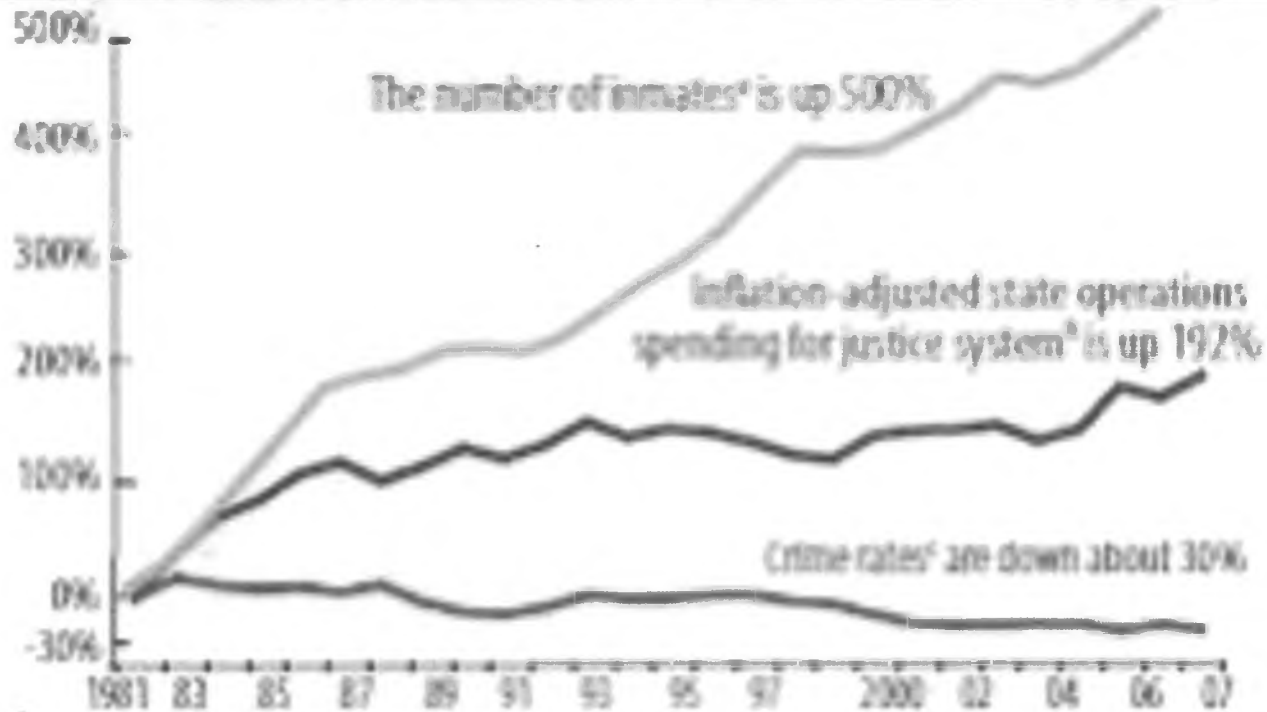
Today they spend \$1,250 per year.

A 117% increase.

In 2009, crime rates were 43% lower than they were in 1980.

Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy. Data are for Washington State. Monetary values in 2008 dollars. Crime rates cover major felony crimes as reported to police.

**Figure 1. Percentage Changes in Alaska Crime Rate, Spending for Justice System, and Number of Inmates, 1981-2007**



<sup>a</sup> Includes in prisons, jails, and halfway houses.

<sup>b</sup> Spending for Departments of Corrections, Public Safety, and Law, Court System, Division of Juvenile Justice, Public Defender Agency, and Office of Public Advocacy. Does not include capital spending or payment on debt.

<sup>c</sup> Rates per 100,000 for murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

Sources: U.S. Department of Justice; state budget documents; Alaska Department of Corrections

From: Martin, S. & Colt, S. (2009). *The Cost of Crime: Could The State Reduce Future Crime and Save Money by Expanding Education and Treatment Programs?* Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage, R.S. No. 71.

# ***Are There Evidence-Based Policy Options That Improve Public Outcomes and Save Money?***

## **Our 3-Step Research Approach**

### **1. What works (to improve outcomes); what doesn't?**

**We analyze all, rigorous evaluations of real world ways to improve the key public outcomes.**

### **2. What are the economics?**

**We compute benefits and costs to the people of Washington using a consistent approach.**

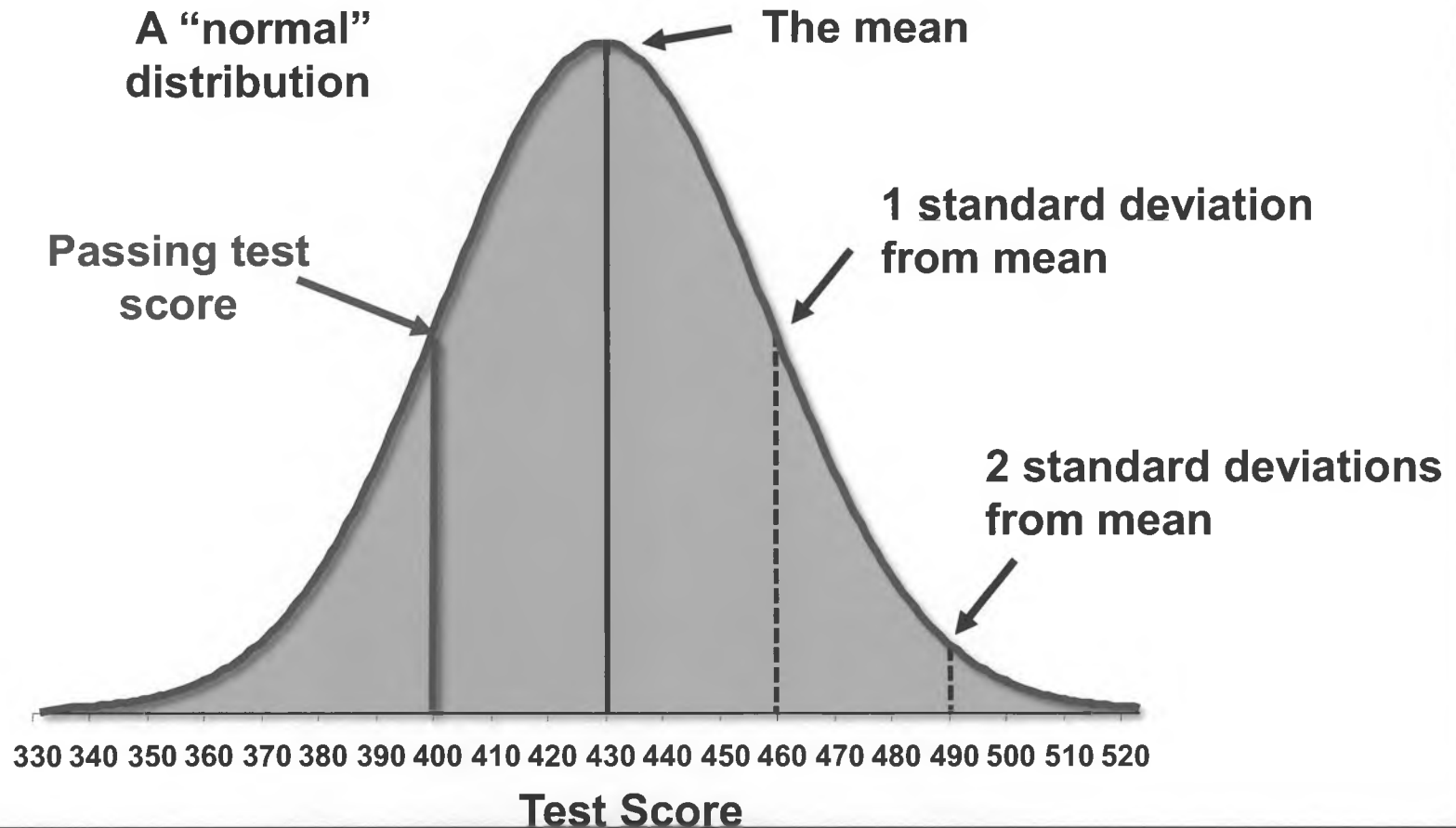
### **3. What is the risk of success/failure?**

## *How Do We Determine What Works?*

- 1. We gather all the studies we can locate on a topic**
- 2. We apply “standards of evidence” to identify the high quality studies**
- 3. We analyze all of the higher quality studies to estimate an average effect**

## *Average Effect = Effect Sizes*

- ✓ Standard deviation = average distance of values from the mean.
- ✓ Effect sizes = impacts expressed in magnitude of standard deviations.



## ***What are the Long-Term Economics?***


- **What is the magnitude and timing for each measured outcome (effect size)?**
- **Does the measured outcome have a causal link to another, unmeasured outcome?**
- **What are the long-term impacts on:**
  1. **The participant**
    - ✓ Increased education
    - ✓ Reduced abuse/neglect
  2. **The taxpayer**
    - ✓ Avoided incarceration costs
    - ✓ Avoided child welfare system costs
  3. **Other people in society**
    - ✓ Reduced victimization

# Road Map: Overview of WSIPP Benefit-Cost Model

## 1. Compute Effect Sizes (from 2 literatures)

**Program Evaluations:  
What Works?**  
Method:  
Meta-analytic reviews


Example:  
Does Early Childhood Education reduce crime?



ES & SE

**Linkages Between Two Outcomes**  
Method:  
Meta-analytic reviews

Example:  
Does more high school graduation cause reduced crime rates?



ES & SE

## 2. Compute Unit Changes (from "Base" Info)

**Example:**  
Obtain base crime probability for this population

Compute unit change in crime probability:

ECE on crime:  
(crime $\Delta$ )

ECE on HSGrad:  
= ECE $\Delta$  X HSGrad $\Delta$

HSGrad on Crime:  
(Crime $\Delta$ )


Compute unit change in Crimeprobability:  
(via Dcox and RR)

Obtain base HSGrad probability for pop.

## 3. Apply Monetary Valuation (to Unit Changes)

**Direct Monetization of Benefits, Example:**  
Effect of crime unit change on:


1. Crime victim costs
2. Criminal justice system costs



PV \$

**Indirect Monetization Example:**  
Effect of change in HSGrad probability:

1. Lifetime labor market earnings
2. Taxes paid



PV \$

## 4. Compute Benefit-Cost Statistics

**Additional Information**

1. Cost of program
2. Discount rates
3. Dead-weight costs
4. Tax rates
5. Inflation index

**Convert all nominal dollars to base year.**


**Arrange cash flows from investment year.**

**Compute:**

1. Net Present Value,
2. Benefit-Cost Ratio
3. Internal Rate of Return

**Perform Monte Carlo Simulation:**

1. Vary all inputs randomly, run the model many times
2. Compute risk: the odds that an investment will not break-even.



NPV \$ or IRR

***An Example of Prevention:  
Early Childhood Education (ECE) For  
Low-income 3 & 4 Year-Olds***

- **66 studies included in the meta-analysis**
- **Population: low-income 3 & 4 year-olds**
- **Range of programs: federal Head Start, state pre-school programs, Perry Preschool, Abecedarian, Chicago Parent Child Centers**
- **Comparison: in program vs. no program**
- **Follow-up period of students: immediately after program to age 40**

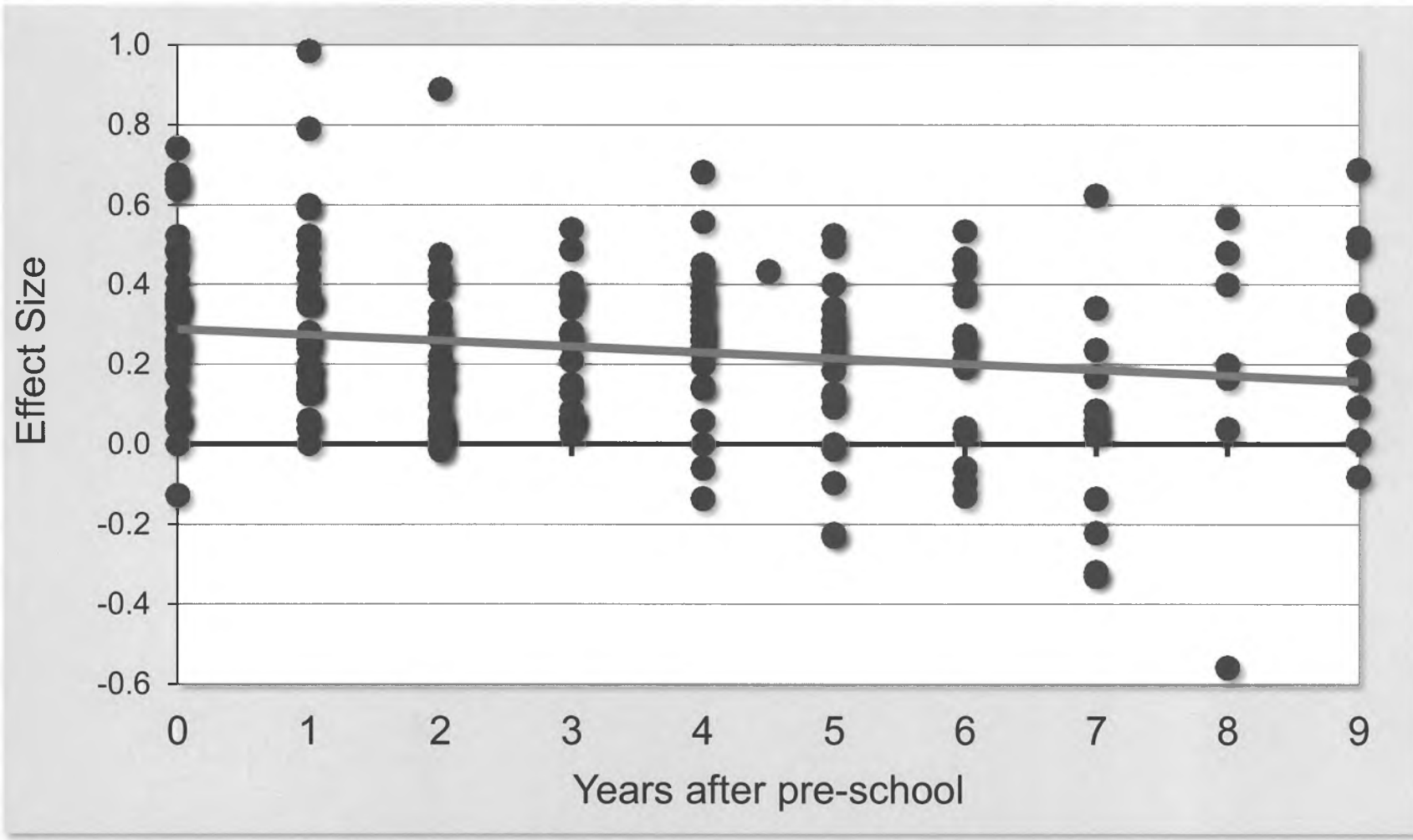
## ***An Example of Prevention: ECE For Low-income 3 & 4 Year-Olds***

**Does Early Childhood Education for 3 & 4 Year-old Low-income Children Affect These Outcomes?      Statistically Significant Impacts**

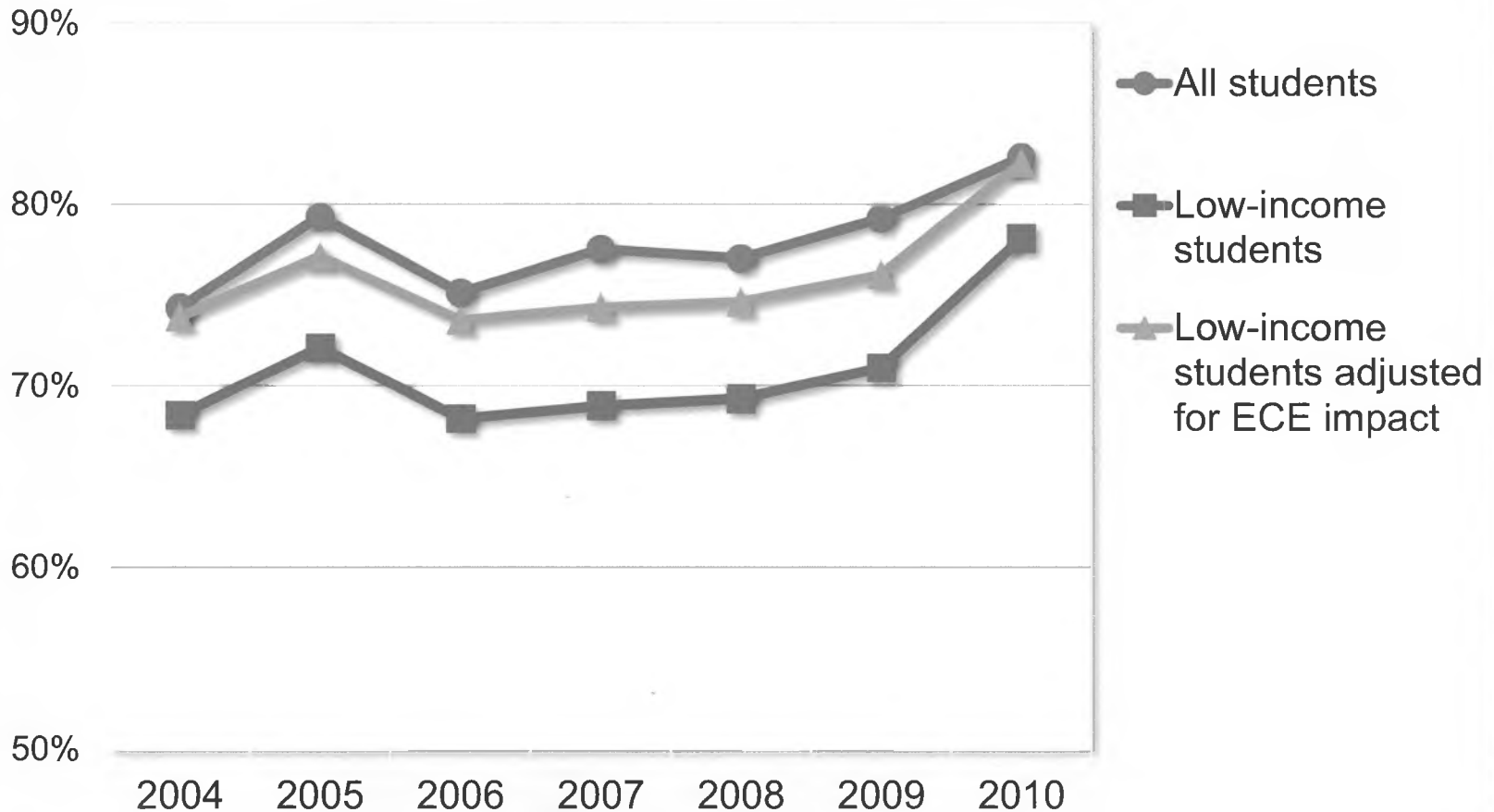
<b>Standardized Test Scores</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>High School Graduation</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>Crime Rates Later in the Youth's Life</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>K-12 Special Education Placement</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>K-12 Grade Repetition</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>Child Abuse and Neglect</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>Out-of-home Placement</b>	<b>Decrease</b>

*Also measured but insufficient data to draw conclusions:  
use of public assistance, teen births, college attendance, employment rates*

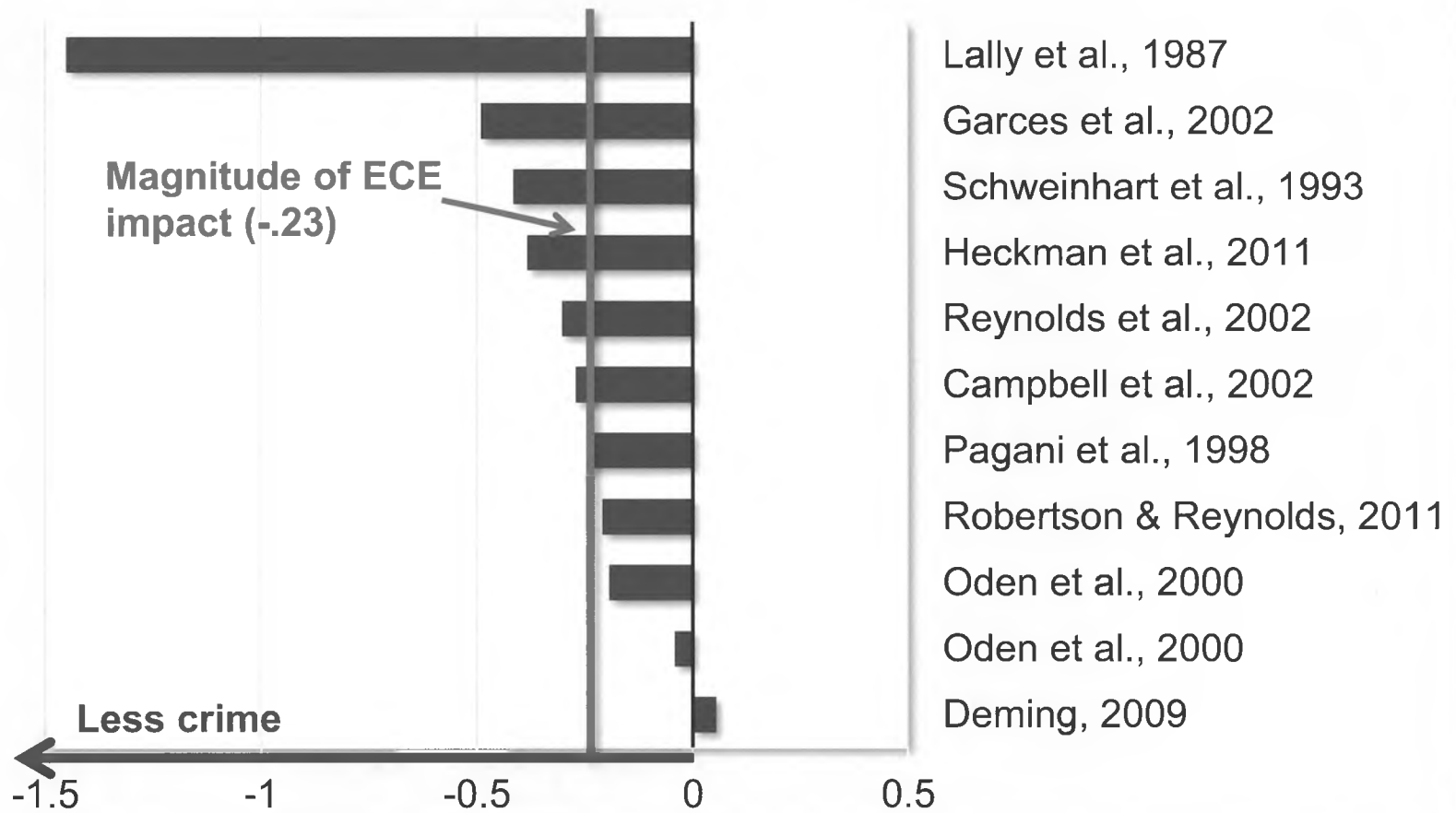
## *ECE for Low-income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Test Score Impacts and “Fadeout”*



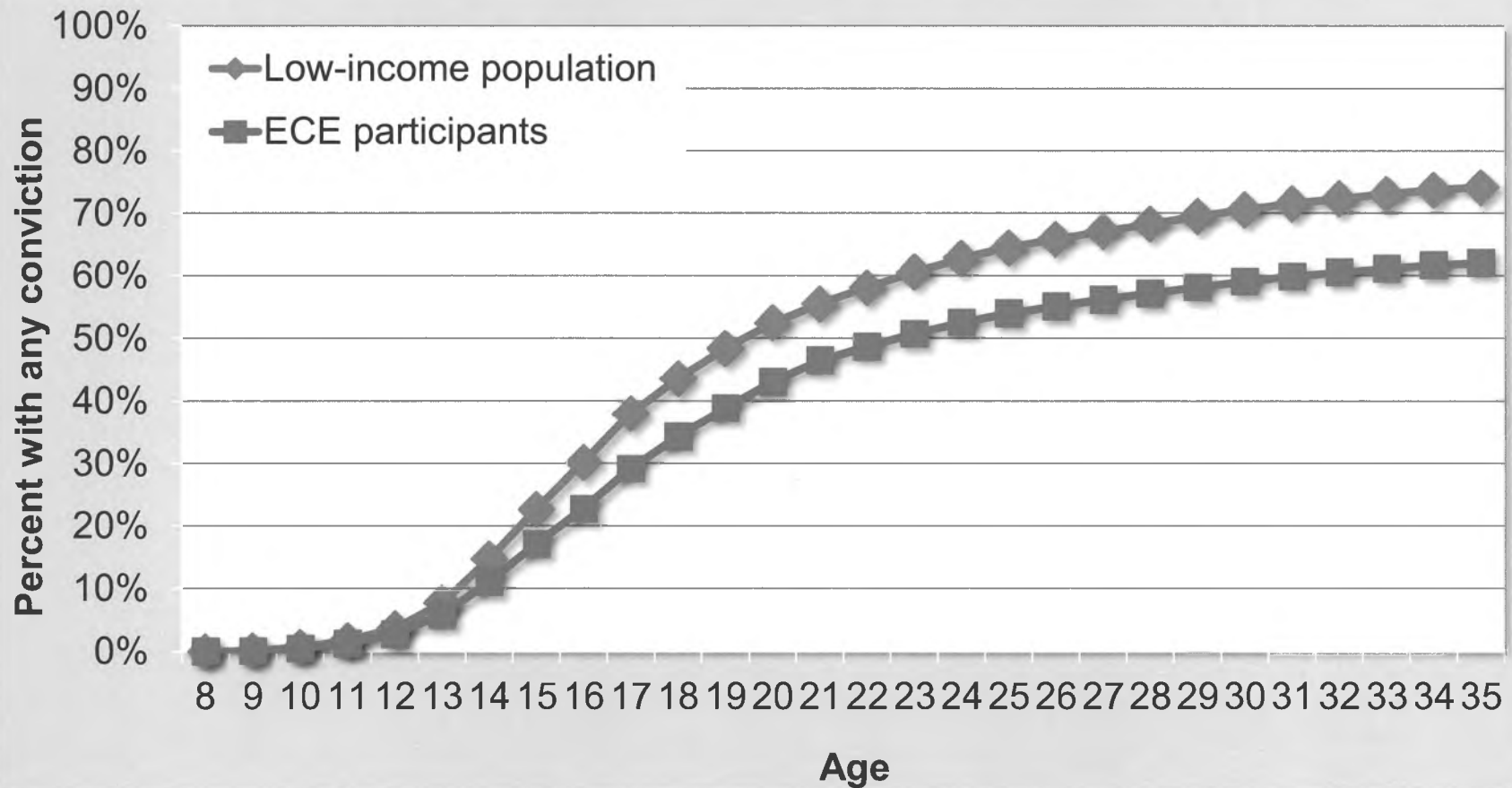
## *ECE for Low-income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Washington State High School Graduation Rates*



## *ECE for Low-income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Crime Impacts*



## *ECE for Low-income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Expected Crime Rates*



## ***ECE for Low-Income 3 & 4 Year-Olds: Return on Investment***

### **Benefits Per Individual**

### **Main Source of Benefits**

Reduced crime	<b>\$6,066</b>	<b>Lower CJ / victim costs</b>
Educational gains	<b>\$9,887</b>	<b>Increased earnings</b>
Special ed reduction	<b>\$1,098</b>	<b>Lower K-12 costs</b>
Grade repetition reduction	<b>\$310</b>	<b>Lower K-12 costs</b>
Less child abuse & neglect	<b>\$637</b>	<b>Lower CW / victim costs</b>
Fewer out-of-home placements	<b>\$379</b>	<b>Lower CW / victim costs</b>
Lower health care system costs	<b>\$662</b>	<b>Lower Medicaid enroll.</b>

**Total Benefits Per Individual \$21,667**

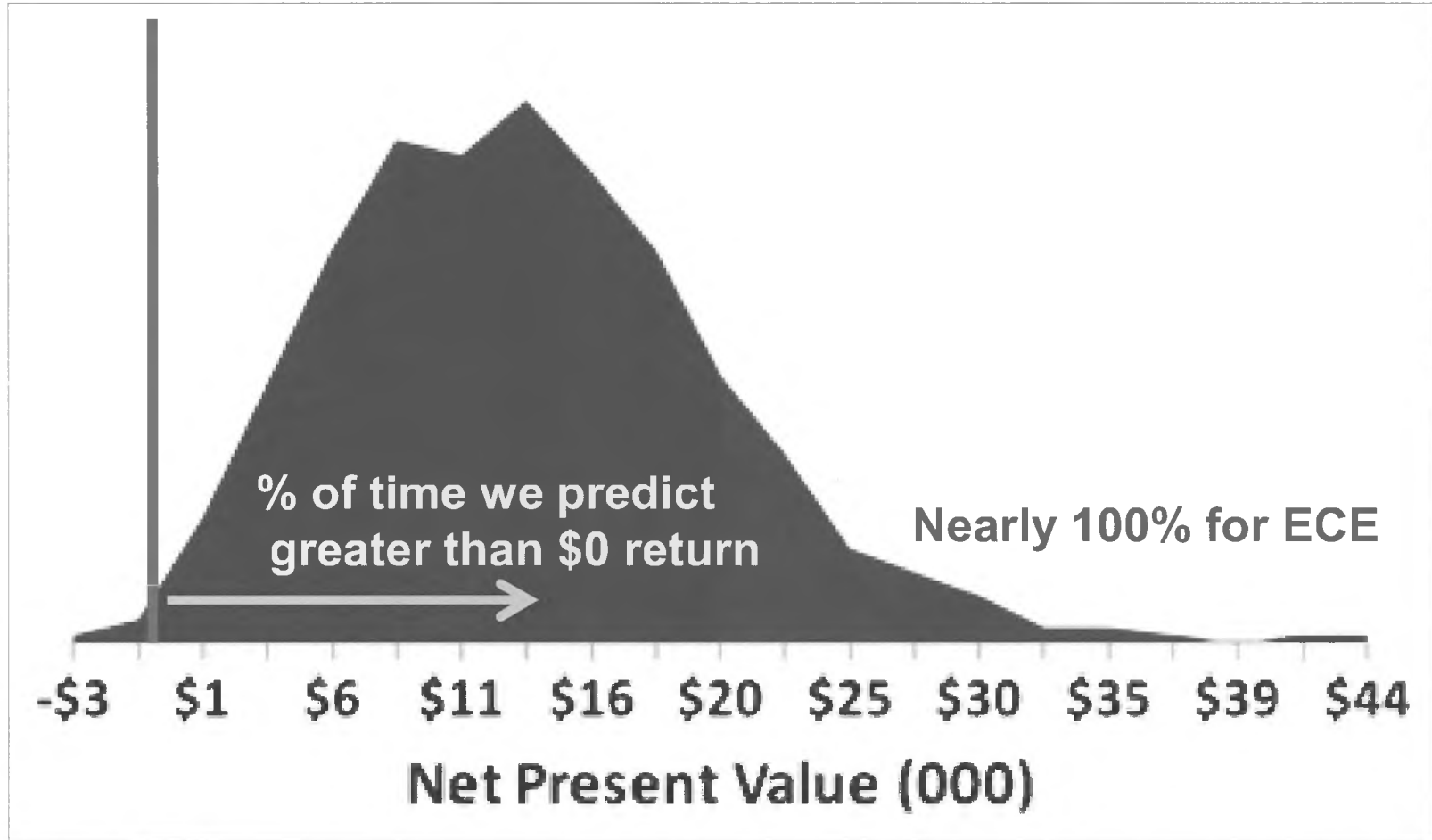
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**Cost Per Individual \$7,295**

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**Benefits Per Dollar of Cost \$3.01 (= 6% ROI)**

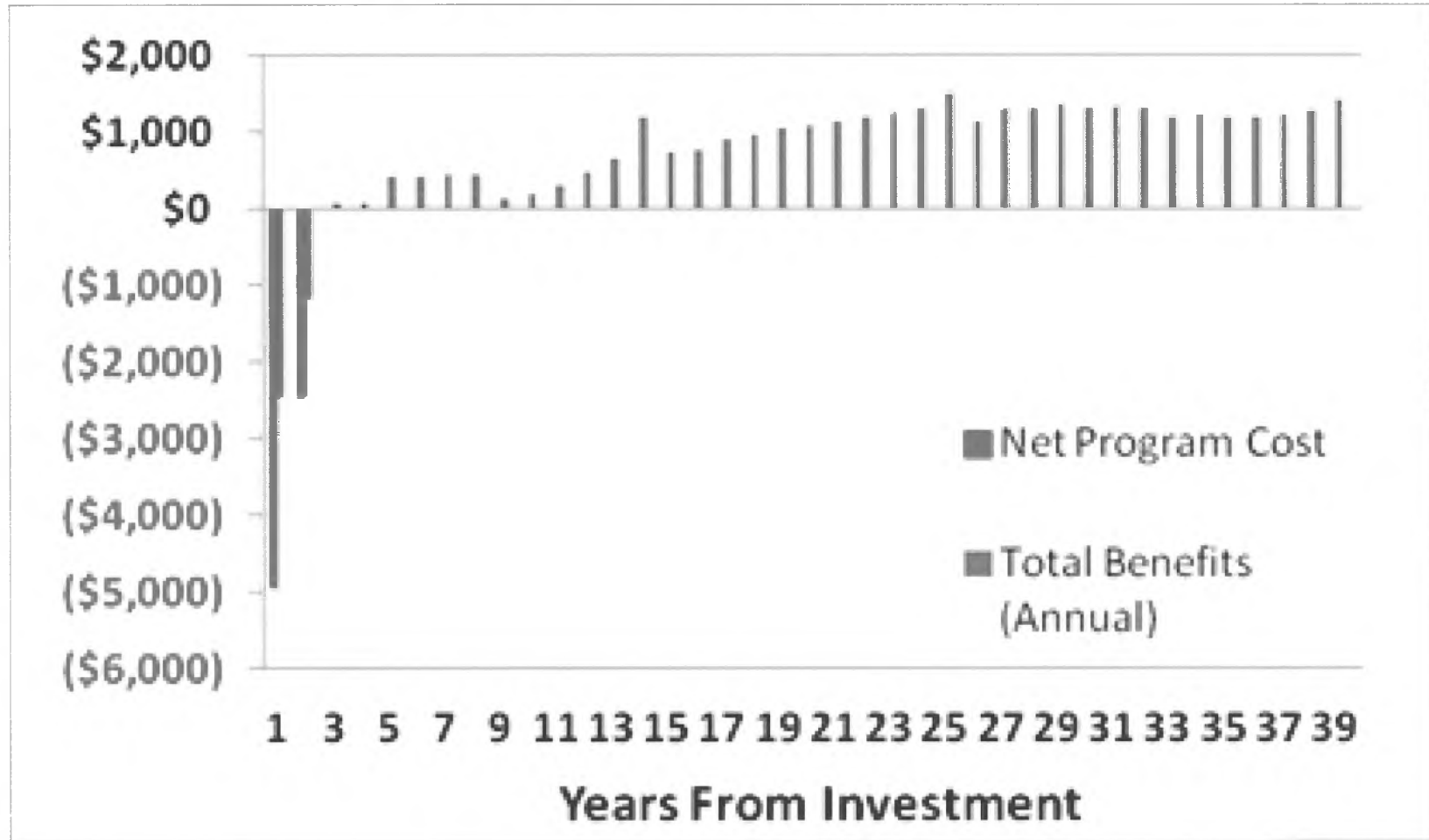
## ***ECE for Low-Income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Investment Risk***



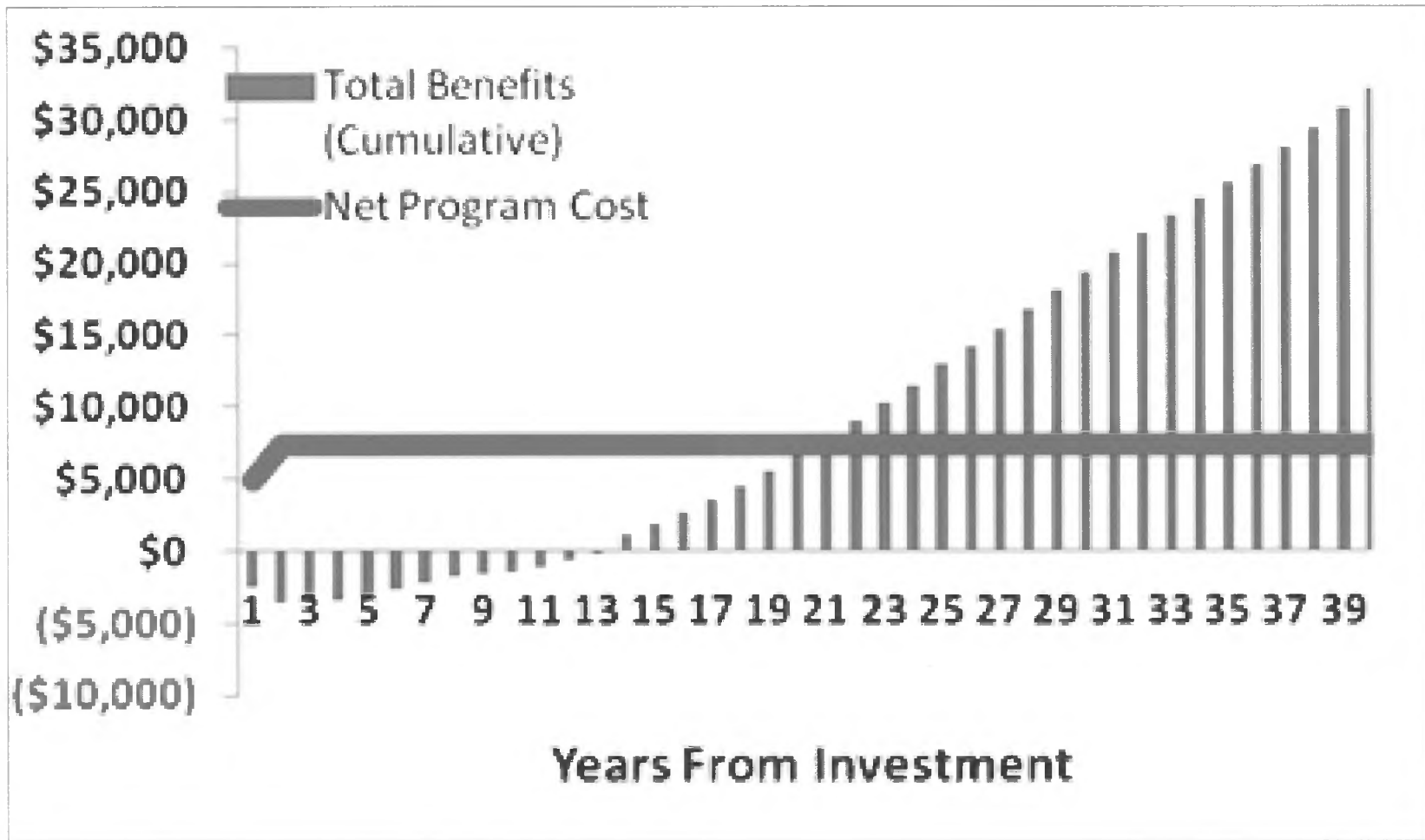
## ***ECE for Low-Income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Estimates of Benefits***

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>To participant</b>	<b>To taxpayers</b>	<b>To others</b>	<b>Other indirect</b>	<b>Total</b>
Crime	\$0	\$1,352	\$4,031	\$683	<b>\$6,066</b>
Earnings via hsgrad	\$1,431	\$527	\$0	\$265	<b>\$2,223</b>
Earnings via test scores	\$6,353	\$2,342	\$0	\$1,182	<b>\$9,887</b>
Health care costs via hsgrad	-\$136	\$1,059	-\$792	\$532	<b>\$662</b>
Special education	\$0	\$730	\$0	\$368	<b>\$1,098</b>
Grade repetition	\$0	\$206	\$0	\$103	<b>\$310</b>
Child abuse & negl.	\$854	\$131	\$0	\$66	<b>\$1,051</b>
Out-of-home plcmt.	\$0	\$251	\$0	\$128	<b>\$379</b>

## *ECE for Low-Income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Investment Returns, Annual*



## *ECE for Low-Income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Investment Returns, Cumulative*



## ***ECE for Low-Income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Summary***

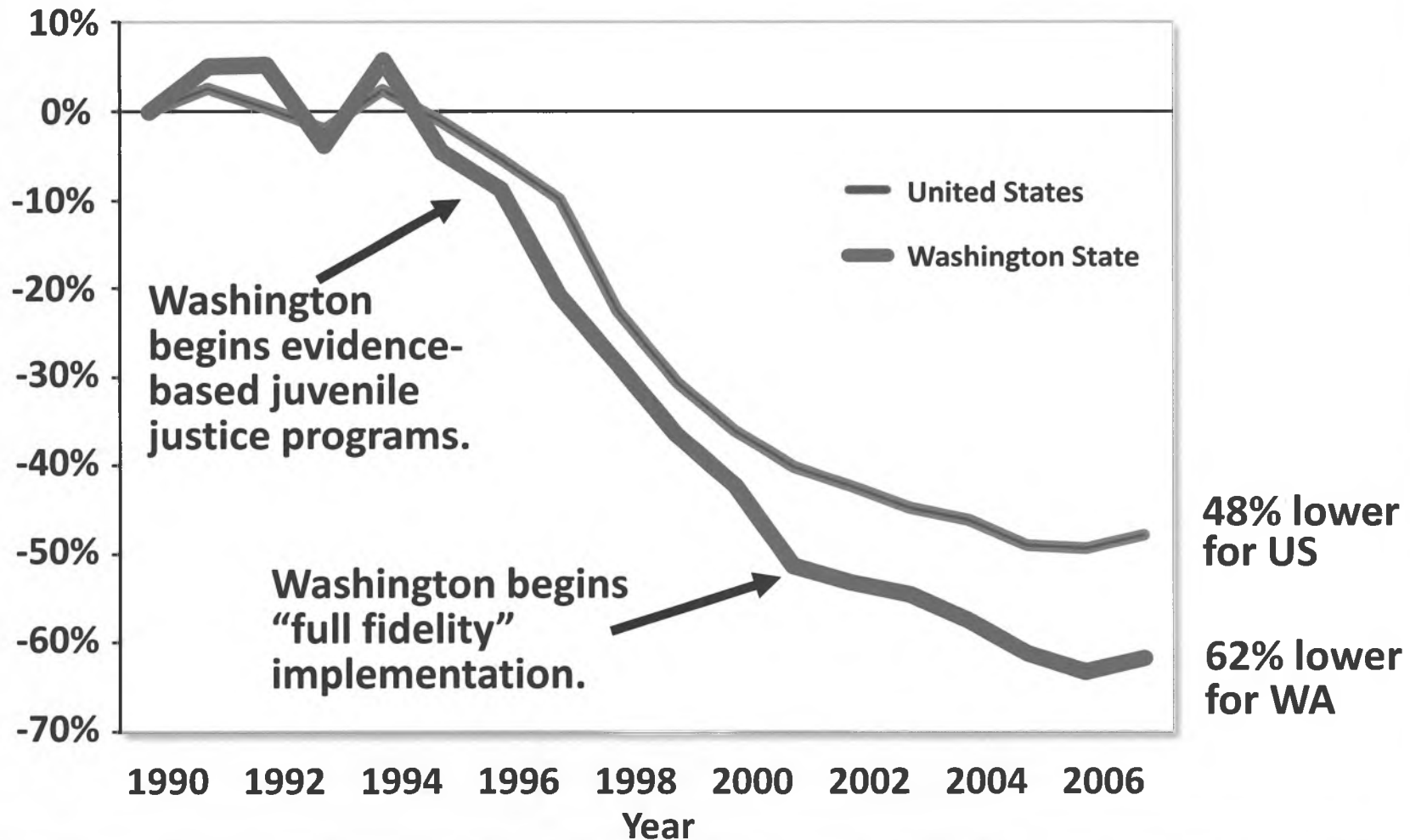
- **The evidence: ECE improves outcomes across multiple dimensions (education, crime, child welfare, health care).**
  - Crime rates among participants are reduced by 20 percent;
  - Earlier educational interventions (preschool vs. high school) have stronger impact on crime.
- **The economics: ECE pays off (\$3 per \$1 investment).**
- **The risk = low. ECE nearly always breaks even.**

## ***Some Major Washington Legislative Actions***

- ✓ **Began funding several evidence-based juvenile justice programs in late 1990s and early 2000s.**
- ✓ **2002 Legislature cut prison sentences (for drug offenders) and diverted some of the fiscal savings to drug courts (from the WSIPP list).**
- ✓ **2007 Legislature funded a portfolio of evidence-based criminal justice programs in adult and juvenile corrections, and prevention.**
- ✓ **2006-present: Early childhood education passes the economic test and the legislature has taken steps to include it as part of Washington's basic education program.**

# Keeping Track of Results: Juvenile Arrest Rates

The change since 1990 in the United States and in Washington (WA) State



## ***Three Implementation Issues***

- ✓ **Formal Assessment Process (Tools)**  
to align participants with the right programs,  
and to focus resources on higher-risk populations
  
- ✓ **State-Funded Quality/Fidelity System**  
to assure better adherence to the:
  - assessment system, and
  - the intervention program models
  
- ✓ **Funding Formulas with the Right Incentives**  
to encourage interest, adherence, and innovations  
in evidence-based programs

## ***Early Childhood Education in Washington State: Recent Developments***

- **Department of Early Learning (created 2006)**
- **State-funded voluntary ECE: full phase-in by 2018**
- **WaKIDS: pilot kindergarten assessment**
- **2011 Race to the Top \$60 million grant to:**
  - Implement Quality Rating and Improvement System
  - Expand WaKIDS
  - Provide professional development incentives
  - Strengthen data system

# Questions?

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Celeste Hodge  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: SB 139 and SB 171

Carol Comeau wanted to make sure her email below is included into the records and hopefully read during future hearings – see email below. Thanks.

**Celeste Graham-Hodge**, Committee Aide  
Senate Health & Social Services Committee  
Office of Senator Bettye Davis  
716 W. 4th Avenue #400  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 269-4049; (907) 269-0148 (Fax)

*(While in Session)*  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 465-4906; (907) 465-3756 (Fax)  
Toll Free: 1-800-770-3822  
[Celeste.Hodge@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Celeste.Hodge@legis.state.ak.us)

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**From:** Comeau\_Carol [[mailto:Comeau\\_Carol@asdk12.org](mailto:Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** Celeste Hodge  
**Subject:** FW: SB 139 and SB 171

Here is SB 171 support. Please give to the Senator and Tom. Thanks, Carol

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**From:** Comeau\_Carol  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** Kevin Meyer ([Senator\\_Kevin\\_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Kevin_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us)); Senator Joe Thomas ([Senator\\_Joe\\_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us)); [Senator\\_Bettye\\_Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us); Hollis French; Gary Stevens ([Senator\\_Gary\\_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us))  
**Cc:** Comeau\_Carol; Laule\_Marie; Stiteler\_Chad; Level I; School Board; Bruce Johnson ([bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org](mailto:bjohnson@alaskaacsa.org)); [Karen.Rehfeld@alaska.gov](mailto:Karen.Rehfeld@alaska.gov); [mike.hanley@alaska.gov](mailto:mike.hanley@alaska.gov)  
**Subject:** SB 139 and SB 171

Dear Senators:

I am not able to testify on Senate Bills 139 or 171 tomorrow morning due to another commitment so I hope these comments can be entered into the record for your consideration.

First of all, I want to thank all of you for being such outstanding advocates for our public schools in Anchorage, and in the state. We sincerely appreciate your support, both financial and in so many other ways! We applaud your service by being on the Senate Education committee.

As you probably know, I have just released my preliminary budget to the public and to the School Board for their consideration. This budget will have two more public hearings on February 1 and February 9; the School Board will probably make some changes to my preliminary budget. After they complete their work, our budget is transmitted to the Municipality and the Assembly by March 5 which is required by our municipal charter. Our Assembly public hearing is scheduled for March 27 where they will set the upper limit of spending and the level of local contribution to the Anchorage School District. After that time, we have to wait until the legislature and the governor complete your work to determine the level of funding we will have access to. If an increase occurs, we revise our budget again, and reinstate what we can, and then we have to go back to the Assembly for permission to spend the funds if they exceed the already approved upper limit.

As you can imagine. This budget cycle undermines our credibility, and takes a great deal of time and energy to continually revise our budgets. The emotional turmoil on potentially impacted employees is destructive to their morale and ability to focus on their important work of educating our students, and doing their jobs.

We are making excellent use of the additional C and TE funds from SB 84 last year and encourage you to visit some of our high schools to see how these funds are being used to expand our career pathway programs. We would ask that you give serious consideration to expanding the flexibility for the use of these funds for at least middle schools and high schools (grades 6-12) so that we can support our career planning in the middle schools. We have had to recommend the deletion of our career guides in the middle schools for next year, and having the flexibility to use the C and TE funds for the middle grades would allow more expansion of our construction, health and pre-engineering academies.

I urge you to support the funding for the next three years as proposed by the Education Committee in SB 171. The years that we had advance notice of our funding increases as a result of the Education Funding Task Force which was co-chaired by Rep. Mike Hawker and Sen. Bert Stedman allowed us to plan and avoid our annual "guessing as to our funding" as I described above. All districts in the state benefitted from this funding and would urge you to reinstate a three year BSA increase that allowed us to compensate, at a minimum, for inflation and increased costs of doing our work.

Additionally, we are urging you to consider reinstating the COLA to the Pupil Transportation funding for all districts which provide pupil transportation. All districts are having to use their instructional revenue to pay the costs of their transportation contracts. Costs are going up for fuel, tires, repairs, and bus purchases.

Again, my sincere thank you for your long-standing support for education. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about these statements, or if you have a need for more information.

Sincerely,  
Carol Comeau  
Superintendent  
Anchorage School District

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Jasmine Jackson <jasmine.jackson@Goldbelt.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** BSA Increase

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am a parent of a Juneau School District elementary student and an active member of the Native Cultural education community. I am writing to encourage you to increase educational funding through raising the base student allocation, in addition to other proposed funding increases.

The proposed JSD budget cuts will negatively impact the quality of education our children currently receive. As a Native parent who is actively involved in my child's education I have noticed, at Mendenhall River Community school in particular, the positive impact both the classroom Para educators and the cultural Para educator has had on student learning. These educators give our students the additional one-on-one instruction from an adult that a single teacher cannot provide with large classroom numbers. This is not only a funding issue, but an issue of equity and quality education for our students.

By raising the BSA and other purposed funding increases, you will ensure our children are given the support they need to thrive in school. Please support our schools, our educators and our future, for that is exactly what our children are.

Gunalchéesh!

Jasmine Jackson

***Jasmine D. Jackson***

**Education Projects Coordinator**

Goldbelt Heritage Foundation

3200 Hospital Drive, Suite 200

Mailing: 3075 Vintage Boulevard, Suite 200

Juneau, Alaska 99801

**Phone** (907) 790-1464, Cell 723-8079

**FAX** (907) 790-4999

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: in suport of SB 171

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**From:** Frank Turner [<mailto:ra7rose7@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:08 AM  
**To:** Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; [sen.dennis.egan@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:sen.dennis.egan@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Dennis Egan; [sen.egan.dennis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:sen.egan.dennis@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Johnny Ellis; [sen.lindsey.holmes@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:sen.lindsey.holmes@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; [aruenberg@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:aruenberg@legis.state.ak.us); [holmes@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:holmes@legis.state.ak.us); Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** in suport of SB 171

Hi

I support SB 171

Let help our children get a good education.

We waste a lot of money, lets find our cuts elsewhere and take care of our children.

Frank Turner

Alaskan Voter

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** bjpagano <bjpagano@uas.alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 12:32 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Increase in School Funding

To: Senator Joe Thomas,

I am writing this email because of my interest regarding future budget cuts within the Juneau School District.

My concern and desire to write this email came after I learned that the district is considering cutting 6 of the 10 nurse positions currently being held in the district. I very much understand the need of budget cutting, however, I am not at all in favor of cutting positions that will effect the health and well being of all students while attending school.

My daughter, started kindergarten at MRCS and is now a junior at TMHS, She has Type 1 Diabetes ( her pancreas no longer produces insulin) and Celiac disease (not able to digest and process wheat). When first diagnosed, with Diabetes, my daughter was in the 4th grade.

I spent a great deal of time with the school nurse learning how we would best manage my daughters chronic condition while she was attending school. The first year of treatment required 5 injections of insulin a day, frequent blood sugar checks and readily available snacks - all required to control and bring blood sugar levels to "normal" range. I was at the mercy of the school nurse to provide the needed care, including injections, that my daughter could not self administer and to help guide her with the proper care in order to sustain normal range blood sugar levels. My daughters already restricted diet became even more challenging when she was diagnosed with Celiac Disease in the 9th grade.

A further restricted diet alters her care, most "snacks" to raise blood sugars contain wheat. The knowledge and professional care provided by a nurse, someone a parent can trust, allows me to "breathe" leaving my child 7-8 hours a day out of my own personal care.

Confident that the proper care is being administered by a nurse and with the assurance of my child's safety gives me peace of mind daily. (To be blunt and truthful, a diabetic, if not properly treated, within 15 minutes can become unconsciousness, have a seizure or even die.)

Diabetes/Celiac Disease is only one of the many major medical condition in which nurses play a valuable part of during the course of a work day.

Please reconsider the budget cuts in the area of school nurses, the con's far outweigh the pro's.

KEEP OUR SCHOOL NURSES to care for our loved ones who have daily challenges and are entitled to the same education as a healthy child.

The nurses see too it that this is possible!

Please consider an increase in school funding to keep our children safe, and even possibly saving their lives.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Brenda Pagano  
POB 211254  
Auke Bay, AK 99821

(907) 723-4263

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** The Murphy family <sitkakids@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 1:02 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Re: Increase in School Funding

Dear Governor Parnell & Alaska State Legislators,

My husband & I live in Sitka and have 3 children attending the Sitka School District.

Please pass legislation this session that increases the Base Student Allocation.

In Sitka our school district is facing a severe budget shortfall that will translate into fewer teachers and significant cuts in extracurricular activities. One of our state's priorities must be education. Graduates of schools with low student to teacher ratios & opportunities to participate in a wide range of school related activities will become the work force of the future our great state needs. In turn this workforce will want to remain in Alaska raising their children here in order to have them attend our state supported schools.

Thank you for putting education first in Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Gerald & Richelle Murphy

**From:** Murray Richmond

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2012 4:03 PM

**To:** [chris.pastro@k12northstar.org](mailto:chris.pastro@k12northstar.org) ; [brpietila@yahoo.com](mailto:brpietila@yahoo.com) ; [jenclarke11@gmail.com](mailto:jenclarke11@gmail.com) ; [akbarnhills@gmail.com](mailto:akbarnhills@gmail.com) ; [hutton99829@yahoo.com](mailto:hutton99829@yahoo.com) ; [kianssen@ptialaska.net](mailto:kianssen@ptialaska.net) ; [landrew@swrsd.org](mailto:landrew@swrsd.org) ; <mailto:bill.watkins@www.kibsd.org> ; [clark.putt@gmail.com](mailto:clark.putt@gmail.com) ; [ehhiltz@gmail.com](mailto:ehhiltz@gmail.com) ; Kris Benson ; Tom Conley ; Robert Thomason ; Cindy Reilly ; Eddie Campbell ; Lon Garrison ; Watkins, Bill ; [scrawfor@alaska.net](mailto:scrawfor@alaska.net) ; Sally McLaughlin ; [kgearhart@crsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:kgearhart@crsd.k12.ak.us) ; Kathy Gearhart ; [dldmevenden@hotmail.com](mailto:dldmevenden@hotmail.com) ; [dihles@qci.net](mailto:dihles@qci.net) ; [wmcleod@dlqsd.org](mailto:wmcleod@dlqsd.org) ; [sbutterfield@chathamisd.org](mailto:sbutterfield@chathamisd.org) ; [mdavis@cordovasd.org](mailto:mdavis@cordovasd.org) ; Ex Steve@asdk12.org ; [shelaahsands@gmail.com](mailto:shelaahsands@gmail.com) ; [darsie@live.com](mailto:darsie@live.com) ; Dave Rees ; [sitkakids@yahoo.com](mailto:sitkakids@yahoo.com) ; [amy.kesten@isd.k12.ak.us](mailto:amy.kesten@isd.k12.ak.us) ; [andimike@ak.net](mailto:andimike@ak.net) ; [alweinberg@hvdaburg.k12.ak.us](mailto:alweinberg@hvdaburg.k12.ak.us) ; [jbirdreed@gmail.com](mailto:jbirdreed@gmail.com) ; [mailto:jane.eisemann@www.kibsd.org](mailto:mailto:jane.eisemann@www.kibsd.org) ; [mbyer@hbsd.net](mailto:mbyer@hbsd.net) ; [kcleary@aptalaska.net](mailto:kcleary@aptalaska.net) ; [Janet\\_capito@isd.k12.ak.us](mailto:Janet_capito@isd.k12.ak.us) ; [rdm@qci.net](mailto:rdm@qci.net) ; [inyqaard@cordovasd.org](mailto:inyqaard@cordovasd.org) ; [erin\\_mitchell@isd.k12.ak.us](mailto:erin_mitchell@isd.k12.ak.us) ; [Kennedy\\_Crystal@asdk12.org](mailto:Kennedy_Crystal@asdk12.org) ; [Slvon@KPBSD.k12.ak.us](mailto:Slvon@KPBSD.k12.ak.us) ; [mailto:Lindsey.Cassidy@www.kibsd.org](mailto:mailto:Lindsey.Cassidy@www.kibsd.org) ; [javamyllloyd@earthlink.net](mailto:javamyllloyd@earthlink.net) ; [timitullis@yahoo.com](mailto:timitullis@yahoo.com) ; [kristie@alaskaqlaciereasefoods.com](mailto:kristie@alaskaqlaciereasefoods.com) ; [brianna.pannell@gmail.com](mailto:brianna.pannell@gmail.com) ; [irellis@qci.net](mailto:irellis@qci.net) ; [schwartz.jp.lf@gmail.com](mailto:schwartz.jp.lf@gmail.com) ; [mailto:annekilkenny@hotmail.com](mailto:mailto:annekilkenny@hotmail.com) ; [Neel\\_julye@asdk12.org](mailto:Neel_julye@asdk12.org) ; [shelaahsands@gmail.com](mailto:shelaahsands@gmail.com) ; [wjacobsen@cordovasd.org](mailto:wjacobsen@cordovasd.org) ; Ty Mase ; Liebner Sue ; Mary DeSpain ; Nancy lehnhart ; Roach Wade ; [friedman\\_jeff@asdk12.org](mailto:friedman_jeff@asdk12.org) ; [mppcollins@acsalaska.net](mailto:mppcollins@acsalaska.net) ; [inyqaard@cordovasd.org](mailto:inyqaard@cordovasd.org) ; [dcollins@cordovasd.org](mailto:dcollins@cordovasd.org) ; [dcaPOSEY@skaawayschool.org](mailto:dcaPOSEY@skaawayschool.org) ; [lucas\\_frances@asdk12.org](mailto:lucas_frances@asdk12.org) ; [sgoudreau@valdez.cc](mailto:sgoudreau@valdez.cc) ; [ballen@kuspuk.org](mailto:ballen@kuspuk.org) ; [alweinberg@hydaburg.k12.ak.us](mailto:alweinberg@hydaburg.k12.ak.us) ; Ellen Pavitt ; [schoolboard@thurstons.us](mailto:schoolboard@thurstons.us) ; [scrawfor@alaska.net](mailto:scrawfor@alaska.net) ; Klawock School ; [wmcleod@dlqsd.org](mailto:wmcleod@dlqsd.org) ; [Olson\\_Robin@asdk12.org](mailto:Olson_Robin@asdk12.org)

**Subject:** Increase in School Funding

Dear Parents, Teachers, Administrators and others who care about our children,

You are receiving this letter because you wrote us last year concerning an increase in school funding through raising the Base Student Allocation (BSA). As you probably know, the measure passed the Senate, but was stripped out of the House bill. There was a one-time \$20 million put in, but that did not affect the overall BSA.

Senator Thomas and the Senate Education Committee will be introducing another BSA bill this year, and we welcome your support. Currently the bill is being introduced, and does not have a number at this time. (There is a funding increase bill from Senator Davis's office, but we are going to ask for more than the amounts in her bill.)

The bill is currently scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on January 27 at 8:00 am. We will be looking for some people to testify on that morning, but more important, we can use emails from supporters of school funding. You can send them to me at this email address, and they will be included in the Senate packet for the bill. We are ESPECIALLY looking for letters from parents. It is very effective to present a package of emails to the committee, and to say that a large percentage are from parents. But if you are a teacher, school board member or administrator, please go ahead and send us an email of support. Just try to get a parent to send one as well!

We appreciate your support and time. I will keep you posted on the status of the bill. If you do NOT want to receive emails from me regarding this issue, please let me know and I will take you off the distribution list. If you know of someone who should be getting these emails, then forward their address to me.

Again, thank you for your time and efforts.

**Murray Richmond**  
Legislative Aide  
Senator Joe Thomas  
(907) 465-6443

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Jeff Hoover <juneaufour@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 1:49 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Re: Support of BSA increase

Just to clarify. I don't work for the Juneau school system, but I volunteered my time on review of school budgets. Thanks Jeff

**From:** Jeff Hoover <juneaufour@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "murray\_richmond@legis.state.ak.us" <murray\_richmond@legis.state.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 11:17 AM  
**Subject:** Support of BSA increase

I understand Senator Thomas is introducing legislation to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for K-12 Education. I am a parent of two boys (elementary and high school) in the Juneau school system and I support the increase.

I have worked with school budgets at the elementary school site council level and Juneau district level and I know the school system is not perfect. However, the JSD is facing a large budget deficit due to increasing costs and flat revenues. The JSD budget gets about 63 percent of revenue from the state (includes PERS) and the rest from the city, feds and other grants. The JSD budget is about 90 percent personal services and most of that is invested in the actual schools, including teachers, principals, counselors, librarians, janitors, etc. Even with all this state and federal funding, parents and teachers are constantly doing fund raisers to pay for activities and school supplies. JSD is trying to make changes to improve their programs but it takes monies funded from the BSA. It seems like more funds are needed each year due to federal requirements and to replace lost grant monies (federal and other types). Increasing the BSA is very important to keep the school system stable.

Keeping students engage in the classroom in the 21st century takes more technology (and monies) than in the past - pens and paper are far cheaper than computers. It is also important to have a low pupil to teacher ratio as kids get more exposure to the teacher and can learn much more. Both of my kids are good students and I can personally say it was due to good and committed teachers leading small classrooms. It is amazing to think teachers are trying to teach our kids when the odds are 26 (or more) to 1. I have a hard enough time teaching my 2 boys at the same time let alone 24 other kids. I don't think we appreciate teachers enough and I don't think they are overpaid for the work they are doing with our kids. They may not work all year, but the time they spend in the classroom is well worth the investment in education.

Thank-you for your support of education.

Jeff Hoover  
4416 Ichabod Lane  
Juneau AK 99801

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** andimike@ak.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 9:56 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond; nda3dragonfly4fish@gmail.com  
**Subject:** FW: BSA before the legislature and school board

Hi Murray,

Here is a letter from a parent asking me to forward this to you for the Senate Education Committee's attention. Please let me know that you got her letter. Her name is Donna Leigh. I will copy her on this letter so you can hit reply all. Thank you, Andi Story, Juneau School Board member

----- Begin forwarded message -----

Subject: BSA before the legislature and school board  
Date: 1/24/12 9:20:04 AM  
From: "D Leigh"  
To: "Story Andi"

Andi,

I got a letter from Jetta from the parent group at JDHS about writing our concerns about the budget and BSA.

The link to send e-mails didn't go through with the message. I am hoping you can send my message on to those who are involved with this issue.

I am also sending this letter on to the school board and district.

Donna Leigh

Hello fellow Alaskans,

I am writing in concern of the budget proposals before the 2012 legislature regarding the Base Student Allocation.

As the parent of high school student in Juneau and the state of Alaska I am becoming increasingly alarmed at the de-emphasis placed on the education of our students.

Our 10th grade student has three classes this semester that are overcrowded, at one time a geometry class had 40 students!. I highly respect the teachers who are trying to raise the bar of education in our schools as they struggle with overload and over crowding with limited support and resources.

In Juneau the School District is proposing to cut 66 teachers which equates to increased class sizes. They are also proposing to cut custodial services, class room aides,

library assistants, assistant high school principals and activities and optional subjects. These may at first glimpse seem like overall broad based cuts, but they will each specifically and deeply cut my student and his educational experience.

Our student's learning environment is impacted by dirty hallways and wear and tear on facilities that need maintenance and custodial services to maintain a wholesome physical atmosphere. Our high school student attends school willingly each day looking forward to the "optional classes" such as band that keep him motivated and make him a more rounded student and community member. Without classes such as band he would quickly lose his enthusiasm for school. He is currently enrolled in an "study hall" class that allows students to go to the library to work on independent study classes not offered at the high school. Without a library assistant this learning opportunity could be eliminated. Our student supports the basketball program as a member of the Pep band. He also attends events such Music Fest. As a parent I have come to highly value and rely on the assistant principals to help assure safety at these activities.

It is like a circle domino effect that just keeps compounding and circling with no particular starting point..... larger class sizes lead to more discipline problems, more discipline problems lead to sorely needed staff support which leads to overloaded teachers, which leads to a poor attitude and decreased motivation, which leads to frustrated students and teachers which leads to poor learning which leads to a seriously jeopardized educational experience which leads to a sad future for our precious next generation.

Break the circle!, Help to stop the domino effect! Support education and consider raising the BSA for students and our future.

Thank you for listening,  
Donna Leigh  
1223 Fritz Cove Road  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907-321-3475

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: education funding

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**From:** dbwally [mailto:dbwally@cvinternet.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:51 AM  
**To:** Rep. Alan Dick; Sen. Joe Thomas; wally  
**Subject:** education funding

To: Alan Dick, Chairman House Education Committee

Last week I sent this letter to Joe Thomas, Co-chair of the Senate Education Committee. Since you are the Chairperson of the House Committee for Education, my District representative, and a concerned educator I believe it is appropriate that I send you a copy of the letter. I noticed with interest that you have taught in the bush but very little about you is on your web page. From your web page I did read an editorial that you wrote on educational reform and learned that you seem interested and knowledgeable about educational issues, especially rural issues. I could not help but notice that you have visited several schools in our area, Delta, Chistochina and Mentasta, in the little time you have been our representative. I realize that you have 46 communities in your district and I think that you know a cook book approach will not work in providing educational services District wide. But I do believe much can be learned by observing and copying what is being done in successful schools, therefore next time you are on a road trip stop in at Kenny Lake. Talk to the teachers, parents and students and I believe you will be pleasantly rewarded with the experience. I further encourage you to use your experience and knowledge in education to help Alaskans to receive the fair and necessary school funding for success in this ever changing world.

Thank you,

Denny Wallace  
Kenny Lake, AK.

To: Joe Thomas, Co-chair Senate Education Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion on increasing the basic foundation formula for schools. I have lived in Alaska for over 30 years and have been encouraged with the school funding until now. It is important to know that I spent much of the previous 30 years residing in Valdez. They have adequate funding to run their schools and in the rare instances that they require addition funds they can request it from the city. To my knowledge every time they requested it they received needed funds from the city. As evidenced by their funding level I believe Valdez loves and **supports** their schools.

Two years ago our family moved to Kenny Lake, a rural community of 110 students who travel from 20+ miles in all directions to attend school. Several families who attend Kenny Lake Schools drive 12 miles on an unmaintained road to get to Chitna where the school bus picks them up for an hour trip to school. I asked one of the mothers “why not home school them?” and she said Kenny Lake was such a good school that it was worth her effort to make sure her kids got to school.

In Kenny Lake there is no budget reserve or waste to cut to absorb a lack of school funding from the State. Kenny Lake has no “city” from which we can request additional funds to help run our schools. My wife is currently a teacher at Kenny Lake Schools (Copper River School District) and because I am retired I have spend many hours observing and volunteering at the school. I know how much money she spends on supplies, food, prizes and equipment for her students; most of this is not reimbursed by the school. My wife recently told me that she has never worked so hard or loved a job so much as the one she currently has. After 25 years of teaching I believe the reason she loves her job so much is she sees how hard everyone in this community works to provide quality experiences for their children and she likes being on that team. While at school I have observed a vast volunteer network that cooks meals for extra-curricular activities, sells concessions, fund raises, drives hockey players to games, volunteers in classrooms and conducts school activities such as spelling bees, music concerts and other special events. There is a level of “supporting the schools” like I have never observed, and I have been observing for 65 years. I guess what I am saying is our community is giving all they can to help provide a quality education to our students. At this time there is no waste in our school. The parents have no more money or time to give. We need help from the only funding source that we currently have....the State. We know what to do, we just need to be allowed to do it. Kenny Lake loves and **supports** their schools but like other communities within Alaska we need the necessary funds to adequately operate them.

thank you,

Denny Wallace  
Kenny Lake  
822-3428

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: SB 171

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jessica Dean [mailto:thefourdeans@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** SB 171

Dear Senator Thomas:

I'm writing in support of SB 171 for many reasons. As a resident of Juneau, a parent of two elementary JSD students (one of which is both medically fragile and has a federal IEP and 504), and a spouse of a JSD teacher, I would truly appreciate your support for an increase in the BSA. The proposed budget cuts for JSD are ridiculous and embarrassing and hurt "the least of these" among the student population. It's encouraging and essential to hear school board members and budget committee members realizing the need for creative funding and less dependence on the State's BSA. In the mean time, medically fragile students, students with disabilities, students with exceptional academic performance, culturally neglected and at-risk students, students invested in nearly every area of the arts, all stand to suffer a significant loss in their education without an increase of the BSA.

Please appreciate the fact that there is nothing more important than the education and empowerment of a child. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Jessica Dean

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Jen and Pat Malecha <jenandpat@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:50 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bert Stedman  
**Cc:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** School Funding

Dear Senator Stedman,

Thank you so much for your service to our state and for making education one of your top priorities. I'm writing as a concerned Southeast Alaskan parent. My five year old son will be starting kindergarten this fall. As you know, Alaskan schools are hurting and are being forced to make far-reaching cuts. In Juneau along with 66 other positions school nurses are on the chopping block. My son has type 1 diabetes and requires medical care at school. In a matter of a few weeks I've gone from being confident and excited about my son starting kindergarten to feeling uncertain about his health and safety at school.

If children are truly Alaska's greatest resource it's time for the state to show that we care about our kids and schools by increasing the BSA. Every Alaskan wants to see our schools, achieve more, reduce waste, and be accountable for academic performance but withholding state funds does not fix schools. The sad fact is that withholding funds impacts the students not the system nor the administrators responsible for the state of our schools.

Please help our schools and schedule SB 171 in a timely manner. Again, thank you for your dedication and commitment to our state and to our kids.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Malecha  
523-9301

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Grier Hopkins  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:36 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Fwd: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[Poms@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us)>  
**Date:** February 2, 2012 9:23:50 PM AKST  
**To:** <[grier.hopkins@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:grier.hopkins@legis.state.ak.us)>  
**Subject:** **New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation**

Neil Black  
3301 Creekside Dr

Anchorage 99504,nblack  
[goshrx@yahoo.com](mailto:goshrx@yahoo.com)  
907-742-4333  
907-332-2818

Please pass SB171 that increases the base student allocation and provides Alaska's school districts with needed funding for the next three years. Stop the budgeting madness that flat funding causes--no pink slips! It's maddening! Schools do amazing work--please pass SB171. Thank you.

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Grier Hopkins  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:46 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Fwd: New Pom:HB 145 K-12 Scholarship Program

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[Poms@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us)>  
**Date:** February 4, 2012 6:33:09 PM AKST  
**To:** <[grier.hopkins@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:grier.hopkins@legis.state.ak.us)>  
**Subject:** **New Pom:HB 145 K-12 Scholarship Program**

Neil Black  
3301 Creekside Dr

Anchorage 99504,nblack  
[goshrx@yahoo.com](mailto:goshrx@yahoo.com)  
907-742-4333  
907-332-2818

HB145 is clearly unconstitutional, and does nothing to improve public education. The Finland model of education is what will make our schools better, not HB145. No religion in public schools!

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Grier Hopkins on behalf of Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 10:35 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Porposed school budget cuts

**From:** Michael Annunziato [mailto:mpannunziato@alaska.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 9:42 AM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** Porposed school budget cuts

Sir,

I'm writing this email to let you know that I DO NOT support any proposed school budget cuts. I have three children attending Woodriver elementary school and I don't feel that cuts to the school budget are warranted at this time. All three of my children are already in classes that are overcrowded. These proposed budget cuts would increase the number of students in the classrooms even more. As I'm sure you are aware, countless studies have shown that overcrowding in classrooms leads to poor grades, less student-teacher one-on-one time, poor scores on state tests, higher dropout rates, health issues, higher crime rates, and many other issues that will and are having an enormous effect on our state. Cuts in education is never the answer, it is the problem. A recent study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* showed that decreasing the number of kids in elementary classrooms is more cost-effective in the long run because smaller class sizes produces a larger number of students that graduate from high school, a greater number of students that go on to seek higher education, less crime, better overall health and life styles, and a well educated and productive workforce. All of these benefits are due to properly funding early education, not cutting early education. Our state pays more to treat substance abusers and house criminals than it does to educate our children. **Alaska pays FOUR TIMES as much money to house a criminal than it does to educate a student per year!** You have the chance to start reversing that trend by opposing these cuts to our children's education. Better education is the answer to so many problems that cost so much money.

So, please do the right thing and oppose any cuts to our children's education. You and all the other elected officials in Juneau should be spearheading a bill to create more money for our children's education not discussing ways to cut the little money that we spend on our state's future.

Thank you,  
Michael Annunziato

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Grier Hopkins on behalf of Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 10:36 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Parent supporting SB 171

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**From:** Richard Monkman [mailto:rdmonkman@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 7:55 AM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Senator\_Dennnis\_Egan@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Dennis Egan  
**Cc:** sean.parnell@alaska.gov; 'Sally Saddler'; 'Andi Story'; greatalaskaschools@gmail.com; Glenn Gelbrich; 'Janette Gagnon'; 'Frank Coenraad'; 'Richard Monkman'; 'Gaffaney, Kristine D (EED)'; 'Ryan Alsup'; 'Mark S. Johnson'; da.luksta@gmail.com; 'Alan Gross'; dee.pearson@alaska.gov; ruby.steedle@live.com; teal@gci.net; harryhartle543@gmail.com; 'Asia Moreno-Goodwin'; jclbak@gci.net  
**Subject:** Parent supporting SB 171

Dear Senators,

As the parent of two boys in the Juneau School District, and as the chair of the Juneau Douglas High School Site Council, I ask your support for SB 171.

Costs are increasing throughout our educational system—costs that the school districts cannot control or contain. As a result, each year our schools offer less and less. In Juneau, valuable programs that help our children succeed are being cut and are disappearing, one by one, as the budget (in real dollar terms) sinks. Foreign language programs have been slashed; cultural education programs for Native students are being eliminated; the gifted and talented program has been cut to the point where it really doesn't exist any longer.

There is no reason for this. As a parent, I believe that all children are entitled to a high quality public education. The future of Alaska and of our country depends on well-educated, knowledgeable citizens. Every student counts!

Please support SB 171. The increase in the base student allocation is critical, and forward funding SB 171 provides will allow our school districts to plan ahead.

Thank you.

Richard Monkman  
957 Gold Belt Ave  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
907.586.3542

## **Murray Richmond**

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**From:** Kris and Nathan Coffee <upcoffee@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 3:41 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** School funding

I support increasing school funding! Thank you for fighting for our students in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kris Coffee  
Parent of two Juneau students.

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2012 8:17 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: SB 171 Increase in Student Base Allocation

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**From:** Linda Kellen [mailto:celticdivaak@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 10:38 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. Chris Tuck; Sen. Kevin Meyer  
**Subject:** SB 171 Increase in Student Base Allocation

Dear Legislators:

I spent a good part of two days watching the Anchorage School Board have their working session on the Superintendent-proposed school budget. Because Governor Sean Parnell has flat-funded education in his proposed budget, the cuts to the ASD could be deep and debilitating. The educator testifying in regards to proposed cuts for the high schools stated that we would lose ground gained the last several years in both drop-out rates and graduation rates. All summer school programs would be eliminated and that includes the methods by which high school students can get "credit-recovery" in order to graduate.

My understanding is that the Fairbanks and Juneau School Districts are in much the same shape. I also understand that some of the rural schools aren't sure how they are going to make it through the year.

There is something very wrong with our Alaska State Schools not being funded to cover inflation and other rising costs (like energy) so that they must dig into their education programs just to survive.

Senator Thomas has created a good bill in SB 171. The \$125.00 Student Base Allocation increase is desperately needed. I hope the rest of the Senate is able to see that as well.

**Linda Kellen Biegel**

**(907) 830-9458**

**[Facebook](#)**

**[Twitter](#)**

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** patty tackett <pattytackett@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2012 12:53 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** In support of Increasing funding for Education programs

Hello. my name is Patricia S. Tackett

I am member of ANS Camp 2; Juneau Indian Studies Program, Parent Board member and Vice President for Camp 2. I am in favor of increasing funding for educational programs. Thank you for time and energy on this matter, and please include my vote on this matter.

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Grier Hopkins  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2012 3:12 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

-----Original Message-----

From: Poms@legis.state.ak.us [mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us]  
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 2:08 PM  
To: Grier Hopkins  
Subject: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Jennifer Malecha  
18224 Point Stephens Rd

Juneau 99801,  
jenandpat@gci.net  
957-0801  
523-9301

Alaskan schools are hurting. In Juneau, school nurses are on the chopping block. My son has type 1 diabetes and requires medical care at school. If you know a child with medical issues you understand that having a RN in every school is a necessity. Please support SB 171.

Thanks!

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2012 3:15 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Senate Bill 171 Support  
**Attachments:** SB 171 Support.doc

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**From:** Jim Nygaard [mailto:jnygaard@cordovasd.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2012 2:59 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Jeannie Blake  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 171 Support

Greetings Senator Thomas,  
Please accept the attached document as support for Senate Bill 171. Although I was on the schedule to testify this morning, my time ran out due to additional appointments. I very much appreciated the presentation by Murray Richmond regarding this bill, as his detail and data was very impressive.  
Thanks for your support of our Alaska Children.  
Respectfully,



Jim Nygaard  
Superintendent of Schools  
Cordova School District  
PO Box 140  
Cordova, Alaska 99574  
Office: 907-424-3265  
Fax: 907-424-3271  
Email: [jnygaard@cordovasd.org](mailto:jnygaard@cordovasd.org)

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## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 7:43 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Senate Bill 171

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Norm Stout [mailto:stoutnw@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 7:30 AM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 171

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I ask for your full support of Senate Bill 171; increasing funding for schools and students in Alaska. Education should be the priority for funding and the future of our state. Don't strangle our future leaders!

Thanks again for your support,

Wendy Stout  
10130 N. Waldo Reed Road  
Palmer, AK 99645

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sara M. Wood <sara.wood@k12northstar.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 12:22 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Student Allocation Funds

Dear Mr. Richmond-

I am writing because I am extremely concerned with the lack of support for public education in Alaska! I was raised in Fairbanks and am now a teacher here because I received a great education here in Alaska. I taught my first year out of college in Portland, Oregon and that showed me right away that I wanted to teach in a community and state that supports public education. I moved back to Alaska because public education has been supported so it has been successful. The smartest way we can invest in the future of Alaska is through educating our youth!

The rising cost of utility bills alone in Fairbanks shows that the cost per child needs to increase. The electrical cost has gone up 23% in Fairbanks in the calendar year of 2010. The price of fuel; vehicle and house continues to be higher than Anchorage by 15-20 cents a gallon. If you keep the cost per child the same this is really a cut because operations cost continue to rise when the money allotment per child does not.

Please support an increase in student allocated funds for Alaska.

Thank you for your Time.

Sincerely,  
Sara Wood  
FNSBSD Teacher

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:02 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: SB171 - In support of...

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**From:** Jorgensens [mailto:jorgensen@acsalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:25 AM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** SB171 - In support of...

Good Morning Senator Thomas,

My name is Cindy Jorgensen, I live in Fairbanks, AK and I am a parent of 3 kids. I was at Alaska Legislative Office in Fairbanks on Friday to testify on behalf of supporting SB171; however, due to many testimonies we were unable to speak at that time – and due to having to work, I was again unable to attend the Monday session. As you know, our district (along with many others I learned at the meeting) is facing large budget cuts this spring. SB 171 will help to restore some of the cuts. I also think it is wise of the legislature to forward fund, as this bill does...for three years. Without the help of the legislature, we are going to see services to students affected. I appreciate your support of this bill.

PS – I would appreciate that the time limits on testimony not be removed to provide everyone an opportunity; however, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to attend, listen, and to voice my support.

Sincerely, Cindy Jorgensen

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** dbwally <dbwally@cvinternet.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2012 12:47 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond; wally  
**Subject:** school funding

Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion on increasing the basic foundation formula for schools. I have lived in Alaska for over 30 years and have been happy with the school funding until now. It is important to know that I spent much of the previous 30 years residing in Valdez. They have adequate funding to run their schools and in the rare instances that they require addition funds they can request it from the city. To my knowledge every time they requested it they received needed funds from the city. As evidenced by their funding level I believe Valdez loves and supports their schools.

Two years ago our family moved to Kenny Lake, a rural community of 110 students who travel from 20+ miles in all directions to attend. Several families who attend Kenny Lake Schools drive 12 miles on an unmaintained road to get to Chitna where the school bus picks them up for an hour trip to school. I asked one of the mothers "why not home school them?" and she said Kenny Lake was such a good school that it was worth her effort to make sure her kids got to school.

In Kenny Lake there is no budget reserve or waste to cut to absorb a lack of school funding from the State. Kenny Lake has no "city" from which we can request additional funds to help run our schools. My wife is currently a teacher at Kenny Lake Schools (Copper River School District) and because I am retired I have spend many hours observing and volunteering at the school. I know how much money she spends on supplies, food, prizes and equipment for her students; most of this is not reimbursed by the school. My wife recently told me that she has never worked so hard or loved a job so much as the one she currently has. After 25 years of teaching I believe the reason she loves her job so much is she sees how hard everyone in this community works to provide quality experiences for their children and she likes being on that team. While at school I have observed a vast volunteer network that cooks meals for extra-curricular activities, sells concessions, fund raises, drives hockey players to games, volunteers in classrooms and conducts school activities such as spelling bees, music concerts and other special events. There is a level of "supporting the schools" like I have never observed, and I have been observing for 65 years. I guess what I am saying is our community is giving all they can to help provide a quality education to our students. At this time there is no waste in our school. The parents have no more money or time to give. We need help from the only funding source that we currently have....the State. Kenny Lake loves and supports their schools but like other cities within Alaska we need the necessary funds to adequately operate them.

thank you,

Denny Wallace  
Kenny Lake  
822-3428

## Murray Richmond

---

**From:** Kathy Gearhart <kgearhart@crsd.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2012 11:10 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** RE: Increase in School Funding

Dear Senator Thomas,

Thank you Senator Thomas for your commitment to the children of Alaska!

My name is Kathy Gearhart and I am the Superintendent/Board Secretary at Copper River School District (CRSD). As you know, there has been a significant increase in energy costs, and up to a 20% increase in health insurance. That, along with pay increases required by negotiations with teachers and classified staff, has put a huge strain on the budget for CRSD next year.

Being on the Senate Education Committee, I'm sure that you are aware of the predicament that school districts are in across the State. Unlike private sector companies that have control over wages and benefits, school districts must negotiate with teachers and classified staff and are bound by State law to do so. I personally think that it would be in the State's best interest to take a good look at the laws concerning teacher's in the State. Being from Wisconsin, I have respect for Governor Scott Walker tackling this difficult issue to address the budget in Wisconsin. In the meantime, there is a crisis that needs immediate attention for school district budgets. If CRSD receives the same budget as this year, the district will be forced to cut 4 of our 35 teachers. In a rural REAA community with six schools, that will be a devastating blow to students. Another area the CRSD has suffered greatly is transportation. The funding for transportation each year always sees a shortfall and the district was forced to cut a route this year. Requiring some of our students to be on the bus for 3 – 4 hours per day. Then there are fuel costs, and we all know the hardships they have brought on everyone.

I ask that the Senate Education Committee please consider school funding as a top priority this year. Alaska's and our Countries future depends on it!

Sincerely,

Kathy Gearhart

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**From:** Murray Richmond [mailto:Murray\_Richmond@legis.state.ak.us]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2012 4:04 PM

**To:** chris.pastro@k12northstar.org; brpietila@yahoo.com; jenclarke11@gmail.com; akbarnhills@gmail.com; hutton99829@yahoo.com; kjanssen@ptialaska.net; landrew@swrsd.org; bill.watkins@kodiakschools.org; clark.putt@gmail.com; ehhlits@gmail.com; Kris Benson; Tom Conley; Robert Thomason; Cindy Reilly; Eddie Campbell; Lon Garrison; Watkins, Bill; scrawfor@alaska.net; Sally McLaughlin; Kathy Gearhart; Kathy Gearhart; dldmevenden@hotmail.com; dihles@gci.net; wmcleod@dlgsd.org; sbutterfield@chathamisd.org; mdavis@cordovasd.org; Ex\_Steve@asdk12.org; shelaghsands@gmail.com; darsie@live.com; Dave Rees; sitkakids@yahoo.com; amy\_kestn@jsd.k12.ak.us; andimike@ak.net; alweinberg@hydaburg.k12.ak.us; jbirdreed@gmail.com; jane.eisemann@kodiakschools.org; mbyer@hbsd.net; kcleary@aptalaska.net; Janet\_capito@jsd.k12.ak.us; rdm@gci.net; jnygaard@cordovasd.org; erin\_mitchell@jsd.k12.ak.us; Kennedy\_Crystal@asdk12.org; Slyon@KPBSD.k12.ak.us; Lindsey.Cassidy@kodiakschools.org; jayamyloyd@earthlink.net; timitullis@yahoo.com; kristie@alaskaglacierseafoods.com; brianna.pannell@gmail.com; jrellis@gci.net; schwartz.jp.lf@gmail.com; 'annekilkenny@hotmail.com'; Neel\_julye@asdk12.org; shelaghsands@gmail.com; wjacobsen@cordovasd.org; Ty Mase; Liebner\_Sue; Mary DeSpain; Nancy lehnhart; Roach\_Wade; friedman\_jeff@asdk12.org; mpcollins@acsalaska.net; jnygaard@cordovasd.org; dcollins@cordovasd.org; dcaposey@skagwayschool.org; lucas\_frances@asdk12.org; sgoudreau@valdez.cc; ballen@kuspuk.org; alweinberg@hydaburg.k12.ak.us; Ellen Pavitt; schoolboard@thurstons.us;

scrawfor@alaska.net; Klawock School; wmcleod@dlgsd.org; Olson\_Robin@asdk12.org

**Subject:** Increase in School Funding

Dear Parents, Teachers, Administrators and others who care about our children,

You are receiving this letter because you wrote us last year concerning an increase in school funding through raising the Base Student Allocation (BSA). As you probably know, the measure passed the Senate, but was stripped out of the House bill. There was a one-time \$20 million put in, but that did not affect the overall BSA.

Senator Thomas and the Senate Education Committee will be introducing another BSA bill this year, and we welcome your support. Currently the bill is being introduced, and does not have a number at this time. (There is a funding increase bill from Senator Davis's office, but we are going to ask for more than the amounts in her bill.)

The bill is currently scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on January 27 at 8:00 am. We will be looking for some people to testify on that morning, but more important, we can use emails from supporters of school funding. You can send them to me at this email address, and they will be included in the Senate packet for the bill. We are ESPECIALLY looking for letters from parents. It is very effective to present a package of emails to the committee, and to say that a large percentage are from parents. But if you are a teacher, school board member or administrator, please go ahead and send us an email of support. Just try to get a parent to send one as well!

We appreciate your support and time. I will keep you posted on the status of the bill. If you do NOT want to receive emails from me regarding this issue, please let me know and I will take you off the distribution list. If you know of someone who should be getting these emails, then forward their address to me.

Again, thank you for your time and efforts.

**Murray Richmond**

Legislative Aide

Senator Joe Thomas

(907) 465-6443

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2012 8:12 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Support for education funding bill

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**From:** Janice Sheufelt [mailto:sheufelt@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2012 5:02 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** Support for education funding bill

Dear Senator Thomas,

This is an email of support for a bill to raise the Base Student Allocation. I have two daughters in the Juneau School District; it is imperative to raise the BSA in order to maintain quality education in our public schools here in Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Janice Sheufelt

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Kris Benson <kbenson722@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2012 3:22 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** For Senate Education Committee

Dear Senator Thomas:

I am a parent of a middle school student. I have worked at the high school as a long-term science substitute. I have volunteered at my child's elementary and middle schools. I have volunteered to assist the school district develop a five-year plan in concert with various funding scenarios. With my exposure to public schools and the school district budgeting process, I want to urge you to propose an increase in the Base Student Allocation for public school funding.

It is heartbreaking to see the need for basic services, supplies, and staff in our public schools. For example, at the elementary school one year, the administration asked the PTA for funding to replace a worn entry rug because the school couldn't afford it. At the middle school, needed teaching positions have been deleted due to the lack of funds. At our high school, a counselor position was cut, leaving the remaining two counselors frazzled and unable to keep up with the demands of their jobs. Last year, our district cut about \$4 million dollars and is proposing a similar level of cuts again this year.

In addition to more funding for Alaskan schools please work to change the funding process from the current year-to-year system. The uncertainty of not knowing the next year's funding is really difficult. The district starts to develop a budget long before the legislative session ends. I believe an increase in the BSA will accomplish this goal as well.

Sincerely,  
Kristine Benson  
145 Behrends Avenue  
Juneau, Alaska

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Shelagh Sands <shelaghsands@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2012 5:53 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Re: Increase in School Funding

Dear Senators,

Once again you are asked to increase the SBA for education in this state. Why are you being asked again? Because the state has never kept up with the rate of inflation alone for the SBA. I have lobbied for years for the state to keep education at a high priority and keep the SBA inflation proof. This has not happened.

I read that the Governor wants to put a one time add on in funds for education, but not change the SBA foundation formula as that would mean the money would be present every year. What a novel idea, a school would actually be able to count on money for the upcoming year and not look at cuts.

I have raised three children in the Haines and Juneau school districts. My first child made it through and went on to Dartmouth. My middle child is going to graduate this year and I am thankful for that as I see that 4 more million will be cut from our schools again next year. I fought tirelessly in so many ways for the public system. Well, it has finally worn me down. I am presently looking at a private school for my third child if the cuts happen. He already can't get four years of a language in this town. Art, theatre and EL have been cut in the last year.

I am a parent that helps more with children that aren't mine in this district, but I am getting totally dismayed with the public system.

It makes no sense to me why the legislature does not make an education endowment program like the permanent fund. The money could be put in every year and maybe in 30 years from now this fund would support the best education in the country.

We really have no excuses why schools are failing families. We are a rich state, have oil money and have forward thinkers in the past. Think ahead and raise the SBA this year and start an education endowment program where money is being invested for the future. Our schools rate dismally nation wide. Yet, we have amazing people in this state. Rise up and fight for the ones who will be caring for you when you are old.

Shelagh Sands

mother of three, volunteer for 15 years.

On Wed, Jan 18, 2012 at 4:03 PM, Murray Richmond <[Murray\\_Richmond@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Murray_Richmond@legis.state.ak.us)> wrote:

Dear Parents, Teachers, Administrators and others who care about our children,

You are receiving this letter because you wrote us last year concerning an increase in school funding through raising the Base Student Allocation (BSA). As you probably know, the measure passed the Senate, but was stripped out of the House bill. There was a one-time \$20 million put in, but that did not affect the overall BSA.

Senator Thomas and the Senate Education Committee will be introducing another BSA bill this year, and we welcome your support. Currently the bill is being introduced, and does not have a number at this time. (There is a funding increase bill from Senator Davis's office, but we are going to ask for more than the amounts in her bill.)

The bill is currently scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on January 27 at 8:00 am. We will be looking for some people to testify on that morning, but more important, we can use emails from supporters of school funding. You can send them to me at this email address, and they will be included in the Senate packet for the bill. We are ESPECIALLY looking for letters from parents. It is very effective to present a package of emails to the committee, and to say that a large percentage are from parents. But if you are a teacher, school board member or administrator, please go ahead and send us an email of support. Just try to get a parent to send one as well!

We appreciate your support and time. I will keep you posted on the status of the bill. If you do NOT want to receive emails from me regarding this issue, please let me know and I will take you off the distribution list. If you know of someone who should be getting these emails, then forward their address to me.

Again, thank you for your time and efforts.

**Murray Richmond**

Legislative Aide

Senator Joe Thomas

(907) 465-6443

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Jen and Pat Malecha <jenandpat@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 3:34 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for BSA Increase

To: Senate Education Committee  
From: Jennifer Malecha (Juneau Resident)

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My five year old son will be starting kindergarten in the Juneau School District this fall. I'm writing in support of increasing school funding. Like many school districts throughout the state Juneau is facing big budget cuts for FY2013. These cuts are deep and wide and will directly impact students and families. I'm particularly concerned about cutting school nurses in Juneau. My son has type 1 diabetes and will require testing, monitoring, and treatment throughout the school day when he starts kindergarten. In a matter of a few days I've gone from being confident and excited about my son starting kindergarten to feeling very concerned and unsure about his health and safety at school.

An increase the Base Student Allocation for FY2013 would help solve some of these budget shortfalls and hopefully keep nurses in Alaska's schools. If we truly consider children Alaska's most valuable resource we need to fund our schools adequately.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Malecha

Juneau, AK 98801  
907-523-9301

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Ellen Pavitt <ellen@gopavitt.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2012 9:36 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** I am a parent and support education funding!

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am a parent of a student at Thunder Mountain High School , and have put two now-grown children through the Juneau school system as well. I write to implore you to advocate for a large increase to the BSA. The proposed budget cuts are horrific and just plain **wrong**, given that our state has plenty of money.

I have spoken with many teachers and school staff over the last several years about education. They all say the same thing - that the kids coming to school today are often not as ready to learn as in years gone by. The behavior problems are more common and more severe. Our society has many forces, including toxic, overwhelming media, rampant substance abuse and overstretched parents that are creating this problem of kids not being as prepared to learn these days. Too many kids are spending way too much of their free time on electronic media instead of getting outdoors, being active, or even - studying. Is it any wonder that the drop out rate is high, and continues to be so, **in spite of much good work our schools do?**

Our drop out rate is too high. But I am certain the schools themselves are not to blame. They are filled with wonderful, dedicated staff who do the best they can with often inadequate resources. And now, it's going to get much worse, courtesy of a legislature that does not support children.

Let's stop blaming the schools for what we are all responsible for - a toxic society that is damaging our children. Let's fund the schools so that they can adequately meet the needs of all students. Don't punish the schools by not increasing the BSA **again**. And most importantly , don't punish our kids, our future, by not giving the schools the money they need to educate our kids well.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Pavitt  
parent and small business owner in Juneau

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Klawock City School District <klawockd@aptalaska.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2012 8:12 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** RE: Increase in School Funding

Senator Thomas: I am writing regarding the Base Student Allocation. I support raising the BSA at this crucial time when funding is rapidly eroding from the federal level. It is critical to our schools, particularly in Southeast Alaska, that the State step in to alleviate the tremendous pressure that will be applied to our districts as the funds from Forestry Receipts disappears. Our district simply cannot continue providing the same high quality of education to the students of our community with such a huge chunk of our budget ripped out. My daughters graduated from the Klawock City School District in the last few years and are finishing their college degrees at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Southeast Juneau. Coming from a village into a larger setting academically is extremely difficult for Alaska students, but thanks to the competitive, well-rounded education provided by our school district, my girls are being successful in post-secondary education. To see the ability of our school district to provide a high quality education for the next round of students drastically diminish because the State would not step up to the plate with this much needed funding would be a disservice to the youth of our State. I would urge our legislators to raise the BSA as an investment in our kids. Valerie Steward, P.O. Box 181, Klawock, AK 99925.

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**From:** Murray Richmond [mailto:Murray\_Richmond@legis.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2012 4:04 PM  
**To:** chris.pastro@k12northstar.org; brpietila@yahoo.com; jenclarke11@gmail.com; akbarnhills@gmail.com; hutton99829@yahoo.com; kjanssen@ptialaska.net; landrew@swrsd.org; bill.watkins@kodiakschools.org; clark.putt@gmail.com; ehhilts@gmail.com; Kris Benson; Tom Conley; Robert Thomason; Cindy Reilly; Eddie Campbell; Lon Garrison; Watkins, Bill; scrawfor@alaska.net; Sally McLaughlin; kgearhart@crsd.k12.ak.us; Kathy Gearhart; dldmevenden@hotmail.com; dihles@gci.net; wmcleod@dlgsd.org; sbutterfield@chathamisd.org; mdavis@cordovasd.org; Ex\_Steve@asdk12.org; shelaghsands@gmail.com; darsie@live.com; Dave Rees; sitkakids@yahoo.com; amy\_kesten@jsd.k12.ak.us; andimike@ak.net; alweinberg@hydaburg.k12.ak.us; jbirdreed@gmail.com; jane.eisemann@kodiakschools.org; mbyer@hbsd.net; kcleary@aptalaska.net; Janet\_capito@jsd.k12.ak.us; rdm@gci.net; jnygaard@cordovasd.org; erin\_mitchell@jsd.k12.ak.us; Kennedy\_Crystal@asdk12.org; Slyon@KPBSD.k12.ak.us; Lindsey.Cassidy@kodiakschools.org; jayamyllloyd@earthlink.net; timitullis@yahoo.com; kristie@alaskaglacierseafoods.com; brianna.pannell@gmail.com; jrellis@gci.net; schwartz.jp.lf@gmail.com; 'annekilkenny@hotmail.com'; Neel\_julye@asdk12.org; shelaghsands@gmail.com; wjacobsen@cordovasd.org; Ty Mase; Liebner\_Sue; Mary DeSpain; Nancy lehnhart; Roach\_Wade; friedman\_jeff@asdk12.org; mpcollins@acsalaska.net; jnygaard@cordovasd.org; dcollins@cordovasd.org; dcaposey@skagwayschool.org; lucas\_frances@asdk12.org; sgoudreau@valdez.cc; ballen@kuspuk.org; alweinberg@hydaburg.k12.ak.us; Ellen Pavitt; schoolboard@thurstons.us; scrawfor@alaska.net; Klawock School; wmcleod@dlgsd.org; Olson\_Robin@asdk12.org  
**Subject:** Increase in School Funding

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funding. You can send them to me at this email address, and they will be included in the Senate packet for the bill. We are ESPECIALLY looking for letters from parents. It is very effective to present a package of emails to the committee, and to say that a large percentage are from parents. But if you are a teacher, school board member or administrator, please go ahead and send us an email of support. Just try to get a parent to send one as well!

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Again, thank you for your time and efforts.

**Murray Richmond**

Legislative Aide

Senator Joe Thomas

(907) 465-6443

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Version: 2012.0.1901 / Virus Database: 2109/4751 - Release Date: 01/18/12

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Please support SB171

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**From:** Terry Snyder [mailto:terry@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Linda Menard  
**Subject:** Please support SB171

I am encouraging you to fully support the most important resource in our state-Education.

A great start would be to support **SB 171** which increases the yearly BSA formula in our public school districts.

Without that financial support the Mat-Su School District will face even more instructional and operational cutbacks to an already drastically trimmed budget. Our district eliminated 200 jobs last year through efficiencies, attrition, careful planning and stewardship of the public money. At the same time the district has improved reading and math skills, increased graduation rates and made impressive strides in resolving the dropout rate. They have built a vocational program which they continue to foster that districts all over the state and country are envious of. These were all tasks leaders have asked them to do better. Our district is keeping its part of the educational bargain in a big way.

Raising the BSA to \$125.00 per student as SB 171 allows for particularly after flat funding last year is a very reasonable request. I would like to see even more monetary support from the state for public education. I do think most agree a commitment from our legislature in a more stable long ranged expectation of increases would be a better solution. While that is a goal we should all work towards I am insisting upon your support of SB 171 this session to meet the current needs and challenges in districts.

Last October the voters of Mat-Su approved a five year bond for investment in our borough schools. I worked hard with a group of volunteers to educate the public about the importance of that investment and the return to communities about the issue. The message was received loud and clear! They voted to reach in their own pockets and raise their mill rate for their portion of the bond which reflects their overwhelming confidence in the job our district is doing to educate our children. Now it is your turn to vote to do the same by **supporting SB 171**.

Thank you for your service and consideration in advance,

Terry Snyder

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Grier Hopkins  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 1:14 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Poms@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us) [<mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 1:10 PM  
**To:** Grier Hopkins  
**Subject:** New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Charles Berray  
17015 Nickleen St

Anchorage 99516, EyeOnAlaska  
[chuckberray@gmail.com](mailto:chuckberray@gmail.com)  
9076026576

Joe, I support your effort to increase the per student base rate allocation. Education is the most important investment that the State can make.

Copied to Cathy Giesel.

Chuck Berray  
Anchorage, AK.

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: SB 171

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**From:** Jeremy Maxie [<mailto:jam97@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 6:49 AM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Sen. Lesil McGuire  
**Subject:** SB 171

Hi Senator Thomas,

I wanted to give a word of support for raising the Base Student Allocation for education funding. My wife is an attorney and I'm an electrical engineer, so we both know how important a role education plays in having a strong, prosperous future for our communities. We don't have kids yet, but we would like to know that when we do, our education system will be one we are proud to support and send our kids through. Thank you for your time.

Jeremy Maxie and Kirsten Kinogak-Friday  
9100 Honeysuckle St  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
907-929-2765

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: SB 171

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**From:** Mike Kenny [<mailto:mkenny@attalascom.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 8:04 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Sen. Cathy Giessel  
**Subject:** SB 171

TO: The Honorable Joe Thomas, The Alaska State Senate

Dear Senator Thomas,

Our understanding is that you are working to move SB 171 which will increase this year's Base Student Allocation by \$125 with another increase next year.

Good on you and you sure have our full support in your efforts. There are many citizens around here who understand that Alaska's future prosperity will be determined by investing in the education of her children.

Our Founding Fathers understood the importance of public education and our Country has prospered in large measure because we invested in "little school houses on the prairie". Let us make certain the same opportunities are available to Alaskans on the Tundra and elsewhere in our Great State.

Stinginess to our children by refusing to fund our public education system in times of plenty is foolish ideology trumping the common good.

We know your support for training and educating Alaskans is strong and has been throughout your career.

Thank you for leading the charge once again.

Best Regards,

Michael & Valerie Kenny  
17016 Aries Ct.  
Anchorage, AK. 99516

907.227.3993

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No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 2012.0.1901 / Virus Database: 2109/4764 - Release Date: 01/24/12

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: per student allocation

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susan Pagenkopf [<mailto:queue@acsalaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 8:32 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Sen. Dennis Egan  
**Subject:** Re: per student allocation

I want to express my support of SB171 in favor of increasing allocation of \$125. per student. We cannot afford NOT to do this. Thank you for submitting and supporting it.

Susan (Williams) Pagenkopf  
retired teacher (1959-1977)

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: SB 171

---

**From:** Jeremy Maxie [<mailto:jam97@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 6:49 AM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Sen. Lesil McGuire  
**Subject:** SB 171

Hi Senator Thomas,

I wanted to give a word of support for raising the Base Student Allocation for education funding. My wife is an attorney and I'm an electrical engineer, so we both know how important a role education plays in having a strong, prosperous future for our communities. We don't have kids yet, but we would like to know that when we do, our education system will be one we are proud to support and send our kids through. Thank you for your time.

Jeremy Maxie and Kirsten Kinagak-Friday  
9100 Honeysuckle St  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
907-929-2765

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:25 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Support for SB 171

-----Original Message-----

**From:** turner [<mailto:turner@alaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:08 AM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** Support for SB 171

Senator Thomas;

Just a note to let you know that I support raising the base student allocation. With the wealth this state has, it should be willing to invest in the future of all of its citizens especially its children.

Thank you for your efforts.

Steve Turner, Anchorage, Alaska

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:25 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Support for SB171

**From:** anji gallanos [<mailto:anji.gallanos@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:41 AM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** Support for SB171

Dear Sen Thomas

I wanted to write to you to show my support for increasing the base student allocation. I have two school age children ages 11 & 9. We are a working family in Juneau and spend 2-3 hours per week volunteering with in our children's school. We live in the greatest state in the nation and I would like to see our state invest in not only my children but all Alaskan children and their future. Please continue support for SB171.

Anji Gallanos

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:13 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you

---

**From:** AKMuckraker . [<mailto:akmuckraker@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 6:53 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Subject:** Thank you

Dear Senator Thomas,

Thank you for your work on SB171, and for prioritizing children and their education. I believe that increasing the base student allocation is a sound investment in a prosperous future for all Alaskans. Keep doing what you do.

All the best,

Jeanne Devon  
*AKMuckraker*  
Managing Editor, [The Mudflats](#)  
Facebook - [Jeanne Devon](#), and [The Mudflats](#)  
Twitter - [Mudflats](#)

***The NY Times Best-Seller, Blind Allegiance to Sarah Palin, is available at [Amazon.com](#)***

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 7:46 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Base Student Allocation - SB 171

**From:** Mim McConnell [<mailto:sheltercovepublishing@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 4:31 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Sen. Bert Stedman  
**Subject:** Base Student Allocation - SB 171

Dear Sen. Thomas,

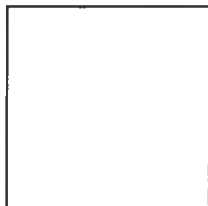
I'm writing in support of increasing the base student allocation. The need for this dollar amount to keep pace with inflation and district and student needs has been an issue for a very long time. I remember this from my time on the Southeast Islands School District School Board days in the late 80s. Thank you for promoting this increase.

Best wishes,

*Mim*

-

Mim McConnell, Owner  
**Shelter Cove Publishing**  
<http://www.sheltercovepublishing.com>  
**Sitka Through Four Seasons**  
<http://www.travelsitka.com>  
907-747-2860 or 907-738-2888  
204 Observatory St., Sitka, AK 99835



## Murray Richmond

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**From:** shawk1919@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 9:22 PM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
**Cc:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** School funding

### Representative Kawasaki

I am the mother of a wonderful second grader at Watershed Elementary in Fairbanks. My child excels socially, but has a harder time in reading and math. I would say that he has ADHD, and I am sure his Teachers and Principal would agree. He is in a class with twenty-two other students with their own strengths and weaknesses. There are children that are reading and writing two grades higher than my son and there are children who are behind him. I watch some of the students sit still and listen to the teacher; and I see how hard it is for others to focus. Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Chavez, and Mrs. McDermott have been great teachers and my son can read, add, subtract, and write. He loves science and wants to study sharks when he gets older. I however, think he will be a politician. His highest grades are in social studies. I have been very impressed with the education that he has received so far.

I am worried that because education is currently flat funded in Alaska (SEA), the quality of education is going to decrease. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is asking teachers to add two students to their classrooms. That can add up to an additional 40 students per day. They are also being asked to add fifty more minutes into their school day. In the North Slope Borough, they are still using a science book from 1996. We have come too far in the last 16 years to be using the same book. Teacher's salaries are not keeping up with the cost of living. I'm worried that we will not be able to retain our quality teachers or replace those who leave. There is an easy solution to the problems our schools in Alaska are facing. They should be at the top of list for funding, not at the bottom. Please increase the funding that they receive. Our children's education depends on it.

Shannon Vargas

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** barb jewell <jewell@ctcak.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 8:46 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** BSA funding  
**Attachments:** To the Senate Education Committee.docx

Attached please find my letter in support of increasing the BSA for Alaskan students. Thank you for your work on this vital issue!

Barb Jewell  
P.O. Box 2173  
Cordova, Alaska 99574  
907-424-8695

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Kate Hudson <hudsonhouse@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 8:22 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** SB 171

As parents of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and soon to be Kindergartner, we are writing to express our support for SB 171. The Governor's budget proposal makes no increase in the base student allocation for the next 3 years. Flat funding for schools essentially means cutting education, as costs continue to rise. The Juneau School District had to make painful cuts last year, and is again looking at making significant cuts in its budget for 2013, cuts that will directly impact our children in their classrooms. Extended learning is on the chopping block. Class sizes will rise. Essential Para-educator support will be cut. The Governor says that without tangible improvements in school results, funding should not be increased. This makes no sense to us. How is cutting teaching staff going to help? And in fact, achievements have been increasing. Reading and math results have climbed steadily for 4 years.

A one-time injection of funds like the energy funds last year is welcome, but is not consistent with building a long term systematic approach to education. Nor is it conducive to morale for school districts to lurch from year to year in uncertainty as we have been doing. Increasing the BSA will restore some consistency and certainty to the budget process and help our educators plan for the future.

Investment in schools is an investment in our community and our state's future. We support this bill and urge the Legislature to pass it.

Jim and Kate Hudson

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Lisa Mattson <lisamattson13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 4:17 PM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Children MATTER, DON'T TAKE AWAY OUR NURSES!!!!

Children MATTER, so who WILL CARE!

I will be attending the meeting this coming Tuesday (Attend the budget meeting Tuesday, January 24, at 6:00 pm in the Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library).

### ***Sacrificing our children's safety to save money does not sit well with my family!***

As many of you know our son, Lucas has severe nut allergies; we are required to have an Epi-Pen and other medicines with us at ALL TIMES in case he goes into anaphylactic shock! When Lucas started kindergarten this year, I was concerned enough since he attends a non nut-free school. This was only compounded when I went to hand the teacher an Epi-Pen, additional medication, and an instructional letter, and was met with a reply of, "Oh, all medicine is kept with the nurse". After many meetings with the nurse and many months of staring at my cell phone expecting it to ring at snack and lunch time...I began to relax as much as one can, when dealing with the health of a child.

When budget cuts were mentioned, and the possibility of nurses being cut I said, "They would never risk our kids like that"! But they are indeed looking at replacing our nurses with "Health Assistants".

This poses the following questions.

What qualifications and training do non-licensed personnel who are assigned to the school health office in the absence of a school nurse have? At this time there is no definition given to "Health Assistant/Aid" by the Superintendent. Will they be able to give injections?

**We take for granted the role nurses have in our schools:** In addition to assessing student health status, making referrals, administering injections, and delivering emergency care, nurses also manage insulin pumps, check blood sugar levels, identify vision and hearing problems, insert tubes, suction children on ventilators, administer medication (in some cases vaccines), counsel pregnant teens, notice cases of abuse/neglect, to name just a few. We have a diverse population of students that the school nurse is the only health care professional that many can afford to see. By allowing these nurses to be cut out of the school budget the message we are allowing to be sent to these families is that their children's health is of no concern to us!

To make sure children's health care needs are met so they can achieve what they need to do in the classrooms, we MUST keep repeating the message that, HEALTH AND LEARNING GO TOGETHER!!!

Thanks,

Lisa KS Mattson

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Susan Loseby <susan\_loseby@jsd.k12.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Letter to support BSA bill  
**Attachments:** Letter to representatives

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Grier Hopkins  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 11:03 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Poms@legis.state.ak.us [mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2012 4:42 PM  
**To:** Grier Hopkins  
**Subject:** New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Mary Hacker  
3744 Knik Ave

Anchorage 99517,mhhacker

Please pass SB171! Without this per-pupil increase, student performance will be impacted in a negative way! ASD is considering cuts that eliminate graduation support (special education counselors and graduation coaches) reduce library services to elementary schools and cripple the maintenance department. I am writing as a concerned parent and ASD employee to encourage you to support SB 171.

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Grier Hopkins  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Poms@legis.state.ak.us [mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 2:32 PM  
**To:** Grier Hopkins  
**Subject:** New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Larri Spengler  
4545 Thane Rd

Juneau 99801-7706, Larri  
LSpengler@ak.net  
907-586-9768

Please increase education funding. Juneau must consider a 50 percent reduction in teachers in the elementary school Extended Learning Program. Grade school EL children need special support. Without challenge, these children are likely to become disengaged in school, and to wind up lost to the education system. Please help!

1528 Bluegrass Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Senator Joe Thomas  
State Capitol Room 514  
Juneau AK, 99801

January 25, 2012

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing to you today regarding my concerns about the Alaska state budget proposed by Gov. Parnell. In particular, I am worried by the lack of an increase in per student education funding and in the stagnation in the overall amount of state support supplementing our public schools' funding.

I feel strongly that this is unacceptable and poses a threat to the future health of Alaska. The stagnant funding for our schools will lead to teacher layoffs and reduced education opportunities. Fewer teachers will lead to larger class sizes, reducing the attention each pupil receives and result in a decline in student performance. Ultimately our schools will graduate students less prepared to succeed in the world.

To ensure the future success of our state, we must ensure the next generation is well-educated and primed to excel in the workforce. Many high paying jobs in various extractive industries, government agencies and medical facilities will continue to be filled by non-Alaskans if we cannot supply students who are well-versed in science, math and other fields.

For these reasons, I am asking you to work your hardest to increase the state's education funding in the proposed budget, especially the per student funding rate. If the budget is left unaltered, I hope that you will vote against its passage.

Sincerely,



Jordan Metzgar, District D resident

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Elissa Borges <elissa.borges@Goldbelt.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** Parent Support for BSA

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am a parent of a Juneau School District elementary student and I am writing to encourage you to increase school funding through raising the base student allocation in addition to other proposed funding increases. Obviously the proposed JSD budget cuts will negatively impact the quality of education our children currently receive. By raising the BSA you become part of the village we need to ensure our children thrive in school. Please support our schools and our children.

Gunalchéesh,  
Elissa Borges  
Lead Curriculum Specialist  
Goldbelt Heritage Foundation  
3200 Hospital Drive, Suite 202  
(work) 790-1468 (cell) 321-6801

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 8:08 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: Education Funding

**From:** Lillian Wilder [mailto:silverworksbylillian@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 12:08 AM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Sen. Kevin Meyer; Rep. Chris Tuck  
**Subject:** Education Funding

Senator Thomas,

I applaud your move to increase per student base rate funding for education! I am a senior who, looking back on my life, realize how important my education was, not only in my ability be an active citizen but also to add to our family income and even to support myself as a widow.

Alaska needs to invest in today's children so they can become successful graduates and contribute to our communities and state.

Alaska's wealth make this easily affordable.

Thank you,

Lillian Wilder

7521 Margaret Circle

Anchorage, AK 9918

## Murray Richmond

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**From:** Grier Hopkins  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 8:07 AM  
**To:** Murray Richmond  
**Subject:** FW: New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Poms@legis.state.ak.us [mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:49 PM  
**To:** Grier Hopkins  
**Subject:** New Pom:SB 171 Increase Base Student Allocation

Jacqueline Scholle  
Po Box 58701

Fairbanks 99711-8701,  
jackiks1@gci.net

It would be beneficial to everyone in the state to increase the base student funding allocation so that school districts have adequate resources to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind as well as continuing to provide high quality educational opportunities for our children.

January 27, 2012

Dear Senate Education Committee: Members:

My name is Debbie Lowenthal and I am a parent of two children in the Juneau School District. I am here today to represent the Gastineau Community School Site Council. The Gastineau Site Council appreciates the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 171 which will increase the BSA in each of the next three years. This will help the Juneau School District continue to provide small classroom sizes which has been shown to be one of the greatest ways to ensure that children succeed in school. Furthermore, services for children in extended learning could continue, ensuring appropriate challenges for the highest achieving students. Paraeducators are a crucial part of the education team at Gastineau and support students who have extra educational needs. Our specialists at Gastineau and the other elementary schools give children rich experiences in music, art, literature and physical education, all which have been shown to improve student achievement. School nurses are a vital part of each schools education team and help keep all children healthy and safe, and this BSA increase would keep school nurses at each school site. For some children the school nurse is their only link to health care. Thank you for recognizing the need for more funding for education in Alaska schools.

Sincerely,

Gastineau Site Council

Members:

Dave D'Amore

Tony DeSanto

Kirk Stagg

Becky Enstrom

Catherine Pusich

Kelly Shattuck

Debbie Vance

Heather Crondahl

Kathi Yanamura

Monica Haygood

Peter Cross